



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,686

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 1998

(1R50p) 45p

IN THE NEWS SECTION

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW

Fitness is the key for Spurs

WITH 7 PAGES OF SPORT

TUESDAY REVIEW

Hatton Garden: nasty little earner

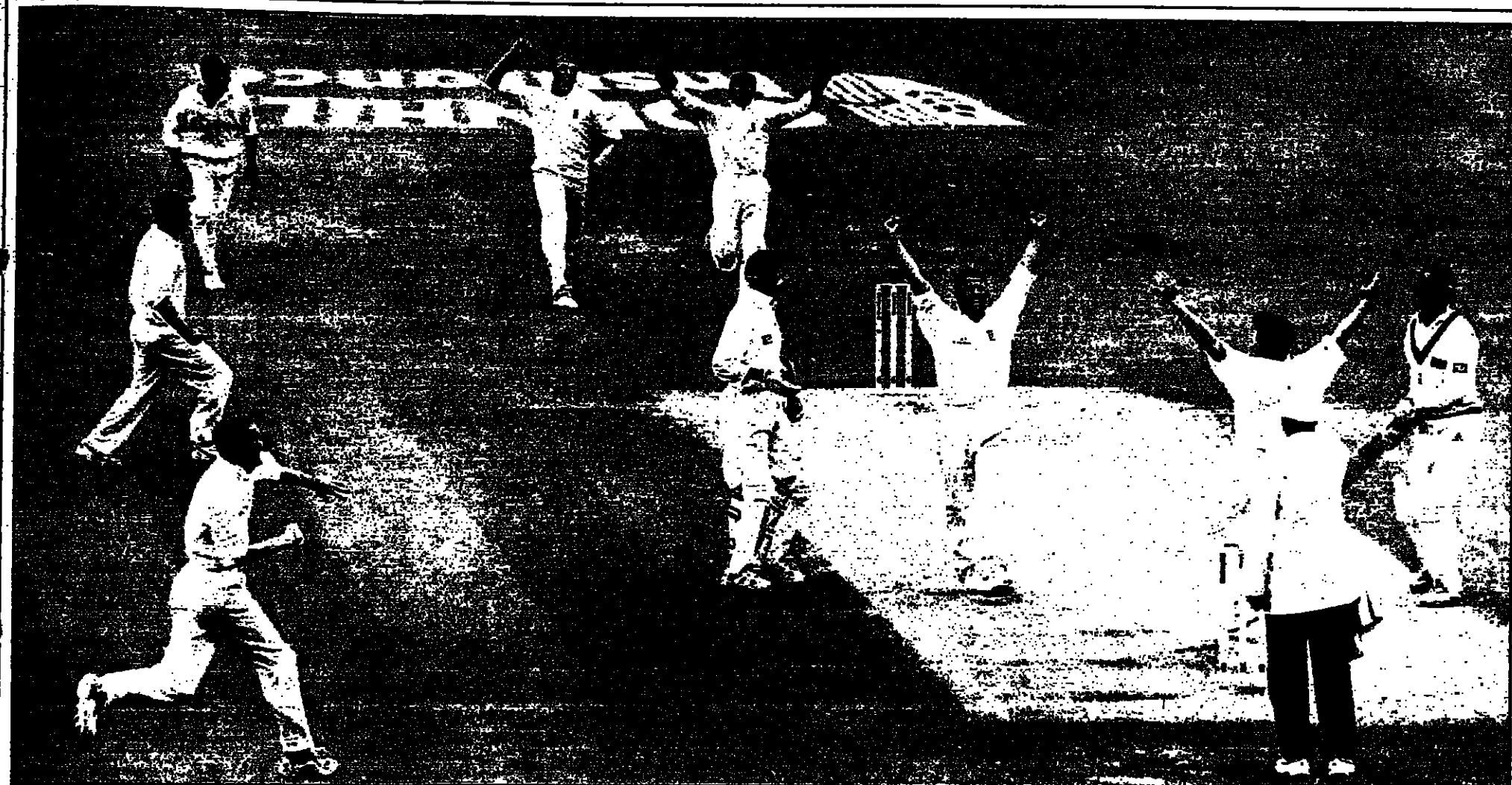
Jewellery and junk

TUESDAY REVIEW FRONT

Callow: in praise of the fat man

ARTS, FEATURES, COMMENT

& MEDIA



England players rush to congratulate Darren Gough as the fast bowler celebrates taking the last wicket. Full reports, page 26; Leading article, Review page 3 David Ashdown

Let joy be unconfined. England win

At 11.25 yesterday morning, England's cricketers defeated South Africa by 23 runs to win a Test Match series for the first time in 12 years. To mark the occasion, *The Independent's* poet in residence, Martin Newell, was moved to verse

There's a breathless hush in the close tonight
And a silence from South Africans
As the smelting salts are handed out
To the disbelieving cricket fans
Who'd stayed indoors, their curtains drawn:
Tetchy, tense, inclined to weep
And studying screens, prepared to mourn
They slipped warm bitter half-asleep
The pitch was cracked in the usual way
They'd tittered on disaster's ledge
When Atherton fell on the Saturday
(L.b.w./inside edge)
Till the Monday morning suddenly
The first Test win in a dozen years
The hardened fans at Headingley
Broke down at once in manly tears
And it's not for the sake of Wisden's books
Or the fact at last, that England won
But it might be the end of the wounded looks
Pack up, let's get some drinking done

(After Vitae Lampada, by Henry Newbolt)

Bar admits to 'ludicrous' fees

THE BAR Council has secretly admitted that some barristers claim fees which they are not entitled to and that others are claiming "ludicrously high amounts" for their work.

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

ment sent the Bar Council a letter containing the names of 20 barristers who had submitted fees which were later cut by more than 50 per cent. The cases were uncovered during an LCD investigation into overcharging which began in December.

Mark Stobbs, head of the Bar Council's Professional Standards and Legal Services Department, issued the internal memo, which stated: "We also have anecdotal accounts of barristers claiming fees where they do not appear entitled to do so or of silks discovering that their juniors are claiming ludicrously high amounts."

Michael Mansfield QC, Peter Feinberg QC, Christopher Salton QC and Richard Henriques QC. The inquiry revealed that in 1995-96 counsels' fees in crown court and criminal cases were reduced upon taxation by an average of 56 per cent.

It said: "The Bar is a profession that takes pride in its high standards and ethics. Any barrister who deliberately overclaims for legal aid work is bringing the profession into disrepute and we have made clear that such practice is totally unacceptable. We will not let the actions of any such barrister be used to undermine the

legal aid system which underpins justice in this country." The Bar is clearly concerned at the weight of evidence of overcharging and the memo, which was leaked to *The Lawyer*, reveals that a series of new disciplinary measures are being considered to deal with dishonest barristers.

blowers" if they come across misconduct. "At present there is no obligation on a barrister to report the misconduct of a colleague, though we hope that the most serious cases would be reported on moral grounds alone," he writes.

\$2m bounty to find bombers

THE UNITED States yesterday offered a \$2m reward for information leading to the capture of the bombers who attacked embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

zansians died and 70 were wounded. As well as dozens who are still critically ill in Kenya, three people wounded in Nairobi are still in critical condition in hospital in Germany.

Secretary of State for African Affairs, Susan Rice, said about a dozen people had been detained for questioning in "a routine roundup" and added: "Don't attach too much importance to it."

workers hope that a woman was still alive inside the rubble. There was a call for silence and rescue workers downed tools and strained to listen.

Shares fall as fund managers bail out

BY LEA PATERSON

SHARES ON the London stock market hit a six-month low yesterday, amid growing pessimism about the outlook for the British economy.

losses overnight. The British stock market has had a roller-coaster ride over the last week amid concerns about the deteriorating situation in Far East, the slowdown in the UK and the presidential crisis in the US.

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Midget subs probe wreck of Gaul

Midget submarines today took video pictures of the wreck of the trawler Gaul, lying on the seabed, where it mysteriously sank 24 years ago. Page 5

Shankill Butcher released

A leading member of the Shankill Butchers gang, which carried out series of sectarian murders of Catholics, has been released from prison despite a recommendation he should never be freed. Page 6

Action on NHS consultants' pay

Action is to be taken to clean up the merit award system which gives high-ranking NHS consultants bonuses of over £50,000 a year. Page 8

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Japanese tea drinkers poisoned

Ten people fell ill from apparent poisoning after drinking tea and coffee in northern Japan. Page 10

Brunei seals royal succession

The Sultan of Brunei invested his eldest son as his successor in a glittering ceremony intended to underline the stability of the troubled monarchy. Page 12

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BA takes a dive on Asia worries

British Airways took a severe buffeting as the airline warned of deteriorating economic conditions. Page 14

Stagecoach catches the NZ bus

Fast-growing bus and rail operator, Stagecoach, has snapped up another acquisition with the purchase of New Zealand's largest bus group for £37m. Page 15

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Celtic players in pay dispute

Fergus McCann, the managing director of Celtic, attacked his players for complaining about the size of their win bonuses. Page 21

Ford poach McRae in £6m deal

Colin McRae, the British rally driver, is to leave the Subaru team at the end of this season and join Ford for a fee said to be approaching £6m a year. Page 22

TUESDAY REVIEW

18-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Madeleine Albright

'Aung San Suu Kyi is a remarkable person and has fought for the freedom of the Burmese people. She is entitled to be able to go on doing that.' Page 4

Charles Arthur

'Abseiling may look daring, but if you have the right set-up - a good anchor and suitable location - it's safer and considerably easier than crossing the road.' Page 4

Andrew Marshall

'Bill Clinton is often criticised for timidity, but he has a better sense of America's willingness to absorb pain than many of his predecessors.' Page 5

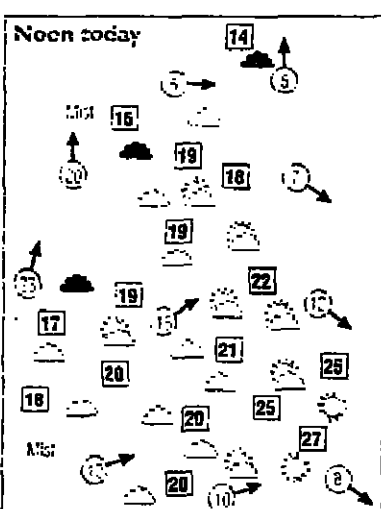
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BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK
Southern and south-eastern Scotland will brighten with sunshine developing. However, rain and a freshening breeze will spread into western areas and Northern Ireland by afternoon, turning heavy by evening as it spreads east. The Lake District, Wales and south-west England will also be overcast with patchy drizzle near the hills. Most of central, southern and eastern England will be dry with spells of very warm hazy sunshine. South-east England will remain hot and humid.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Patchy light rain will move south-east across England and Wales tomorrow, with the odd thundery burst possible in eastern England later. Brighter and fresher air will follow from the north-west, but western Scotland will remain very showery and breezy. On Thursday, more rain is likely over Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England. Southern England will stay dry and bright but it will be less hot than recently.



A family belonging to the Ramblers' Association having a picnic - complete with gas masks - in Vauxhall Cross, London, in protest at the National Farmers' Union proposal for a ban on picnics in the countryside
Rui Xavier

Lib Dem chief's trust helped to fund Blair

TONY BLAIR'S private office received £30,000 in the run-up to the general election from a trust run by senior figures from the Liberal Democrats and SDP. *The Independent* has learned.

By FRANK ABRAMS
Political Correspondent
AND ANDREW MULLINS

Directors of the Lionel Cooke Memorial Fund Ltd include Bill Rodgers, now Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman in the House of Lords, and David Owen, a fellow member of the "Gang of Four" which founded the SDP. The revelation is bound to fuel speculation among the Labour left that Tony Blair wants to form a centrist coalition with Liberal Democrats, former SDP members and even moderate Conservatives. Some Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs have already expressed distaste for Mr Blair's closeness to the Liberal Democrats.

The fund was set up in 1966 and its original directors included the then Labour leader, Hugh Gaitskell. Although it



Lord Rodgers: Claims to be 'sleeping trustee'

was set up to fund the Labour movement several members of its board, including Lord Rodgers and Lord Owen, defected to found the Social Democratic Party in 1981. For the next nine years the SDP received money from the fund, but in the early 1990s it began giving small sums instead to a Labour education project and to the Social Market Foundation, a right-wing think tank.

The fund's accounts for 1996 and 1997 record donations of £15,000 per year to "The Labour Party". However, instead of going into the party's general funds they went to the office of Tony Blair, who recorded them in the Register of Members' Interests without revealing their size. Lord Rodgers said that despite being on the board of the fund he had not played any major part in its decisions in recent times. "I am very much a

sleeping trustee. I think one or two of us have turned a blind eye when there were things we didn't want to express a view on.

"I am sure that Paddy Ashdown would certainly be surprised. It's a historical thing. When I became a trustee I was certainly a member of the Labour Party," he said.

David Owen was away on

holiday, but a spokeswoman said he was "completely in favour" of the decisions the fund took.

"Once the SDP stopped it was agreed that the money would be put to the Labour Party. He felt it was in keeping with what Hugh Gaitskell would have wanted," she said.

The fund's chairman is Jack Diamond, a Labour Cabinet minister between 1968 and 1970 who was later the SDP's leader in the House of Lords between 1982 and 1983. Among the other members of its first board was the then General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, Samuel Watson. Lord Sainsbury of Drury Lane, who left Labour in 1981 for the SDP and who is the 93-year-old uncle of the current trade and industry minister Lord Sainsbury of Turville, is one of the fund's directors. Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, a Labour Cabinet minister between 1986 and 1970 and Labour leader in the Lords be-

tween 1982 and 1992, was appointed as a director in 1992.

Other former board members include Sir Frederick Hayday, a former Chairman of the Trades Union Congress and Alfred Robens, a Labour minister between 1947 and 1951.

Lord Diamond said that although funding the SDP came within the organisation's stated aim of supporting the Labour movement, funding the Liberal Democrats would not.

Asked whether giving money to Labour indicated support for the party, he replied: "Of course it does. The fund is using its income entirely for the Labour Party."

"Our responsibility is to provide things for the Labour movement, which is wider than the Labour Party."

Lionel Cooke was a Brighton businessman, a Labour sympathiser and a friend of Jack Diamond, who died in the 1950s. His money was left partly to the Fabian Society and partly to set up the fund.

Pension for convicted police angers ministers

SCOTTISH POLICE representatives today defended the force's pensions scheme, but admitted it needed "better management" after revelations that an officer convicted of indecent assault had retired with a lucrative financial package.

DC Ian Gibson, 33, of Tayside Police, secured a medical retirement pension worth an estimated £7,000 a year and a lump sum despite being imprisoned for three months for assaulting a lone mother.

Attempts to block the award by Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar and Tayside Police chief constable William Spence failed and the outcome left Scottish Office ministers furious over

By ANDREW DENHOLM

weaknesses in the rules governing police pensions. The *Herald* newspaper reported today.

However, the Scottish Police Federation (SPF) today said accusations that the system was open to frequent abuse were "completely unfounded", but accepted a tightening up of procedures was needed.

"Any officer who retires from the police service on ill-health or injury grounds does so on the basis of medical criteria and nothing else," said Douglas Keil, general secretary of the SPF. "Retiring on ill health to avoid disciplinary proceedings

has been described as commonplace, but nothing could be further from the truth." He said it was an insult to dedicated officers to suggest they were "working the system", but agreed too many officers were retiring on health grounds. "We are firmly of the belief this is caused by the strenuous and often dangerous nature of police work."

The Gibson case helped persuade Home Secretary Jack Straw to order an urgent review of the UK-wide police pensions system. The Government is looking at ways to close loopholes through the Police Pensions Review consultation document.

Social worker claims reverse discrimination

AN IRISH social worker yesterday claimed he was sacked by a London council because he was racially discriminated against in favour of black and Asian workers.

Patrick Reynolds told an industrial tribunal he was dismissed as a community development officer with Southwark Council after being treated differently from Afro-Caribbean colleagues.

Mr Reynolds, 48, from Wood Green, north London, represented himself at the hearing in Ashford, Kent, where he is claiming unfair dismissal and racial discrimination. He said that after restructuring of the equalities depart-

By MAXINE FRITH

ment in 1996 he was left without a job.

He was turned down for two posts and was not offered other suitable alternatives but other workers in the same department were spared the loss of jobs or redeployed elsewhere.

Mr Reynolds said: "I was discriminated against because of my Irishness. I was quite clearly treated differently from other members of staff. In my unit one Asian chap was left entirely out of the restructuring. An Afro-Caribbean woman was given another job, an Asian woman was also left out of the reorganisation and another

Asian chap was offered alternative employment."

Mr Reynolds said he believed score sheets completed at his interview for one job had been tampered with to "deliberately" fail him. He also said that after leaving Southwark Council personnel officers wrecked his chances of another job with Hackney Council by providing unfair references.

Mr Reynolds said outside the tribunal: "I was the only non-British citizen and non-coloured person in my unit who lost his job." Mr Reynolds, born in Longford, Ireland, in 1950, moved to London in 1974. The tribunal is expected to last four days.

YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

	21 05	to	05 54
Belfast	20 41	to	05 44
Birmingham	20 41	to	05 51
Bristol	21 03	to	05 42
London	20 31	to	05 41
Manchester	20 31	to	05 43
Newcastle	20 49	to	05 35

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	04:51	7.5	17:03	7.4
Liverpool	02:00	9.9	14:23	9.5
Ayr	10:20	13.6	22:41	13.8
Hull (Albert Dock)	09:10	9.1	21:42	8.8
Greenock	03:31	3.7	15:57	3.5
Dur: Launceston	02:06	4.4	14:42	4.0

SUN & MOON

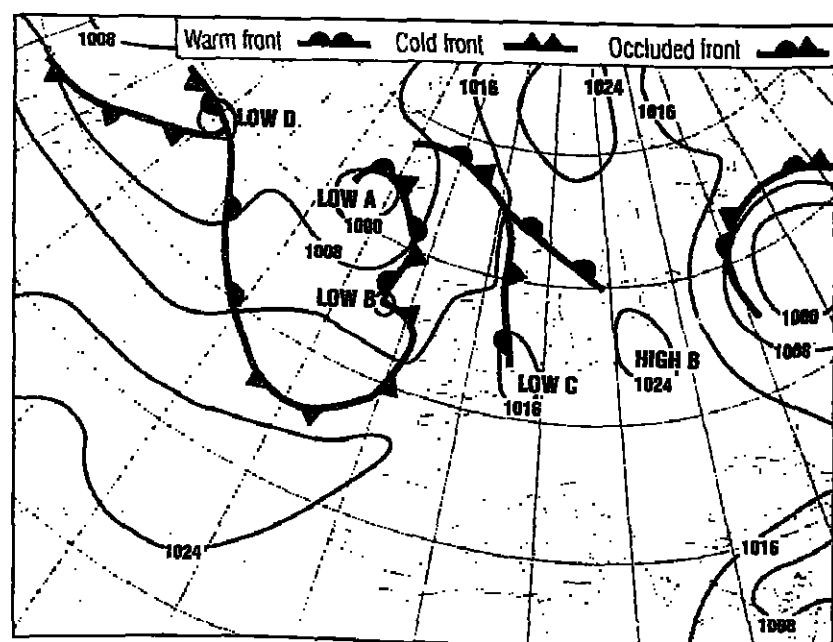
Sun rises:	05:39
Sun sets:	20:31
Moon rises:	22:18
Moon sets:	09:05
Last quarter:	August 14

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map. Source: The Met Office, calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



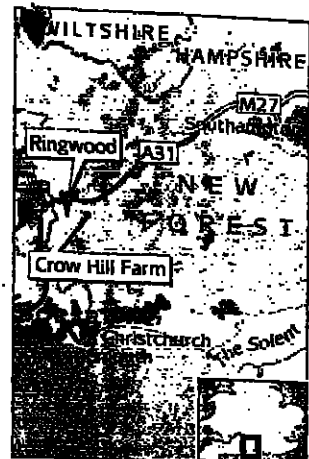
Low A will remain in situ. Low B will move north-east. Low C will move east, displacing High B.

Mink
fear i

Thames

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Mink. The four-letter word striking fear into the heart of Hampshire



BY KATHY MARKS

IT WAS a scene straight out of *The Wind in The Willows*. Rolling meadows where cows grazed, swishing away flies with their tails; sunshine dappling off the water; the River Avon wending its way languidly through the bucolic countryside.

Had Toad and Ratty taken a stroll along the riverbank yesterday, though, they would probably have ended up as mangled carcasses, slaughtered by some of the most ferocious predators to be found in the animal kingdom.

Mink. That single syllable is enough to strike fear into the hearts of all small mammals. In their most familiar habitat, draped across rich women's shoulders, mink are quite harmless. Live, they are lethal, and up to 5,000 of them are on the loose in Hampshire, terrorising livestock and domestic pets.

"Liberated" from a fur farm near Ringwood at the weekend by animal welfare militants, the rodents are roaming far and wide, stalking wildlife in the New Forest, slipping over the border into Dorset. There have been sightings within a five-mile radius; in gardens, in drainpipes, even in people's bedrooms. The mink have no shame, and no mercy.

Yesterday, on the advice of police, residents were locking up their cats and dogs, and mounting armed patrols on their properties. The mink have already taken out a chihuahua and had a go at some piglets. Locals have been warned not to approach them, if they feel a sentimental attachment to all 10 of their fingers. Landowners have been advised to shoot on sight.

With their dark eyes, long whiskers and startled expressions, mink look like nothing more than elongated guinea pigs. They look, in fact, like little poppets. In fact, say wildlife experts, they are vicious hunters that can strip an entire henhouse during a nocturnal raid. They eat birds, mice, frogs and fish, and have no scruples about attacking



One of the released minks spotted near Ringwood in Hampshire yesterday

Ratty is just a snack to pests

BRITAIN'S MOST rapidly declining mammal, the water vole, is likely to be the principal victim of the great Hampshire mink escape.

Water vole numbers are tumbling across the country, with an estimated 90 per cent decline in population in the last decade, as a direct result of the populations of North American mink which established themselves in the wild here in the 1950s and 60s after escapes from fur farms.

In many river catchment areas the small swimming rodents, once a familiar sight, have been wiped out.

"Wherever there are mink, water vole numbers reduce dramatically," said Ian Davidson-Watts, Hampshire downs and rivers officer for English Nature, the Government's wildlife service. "They are a favourite item of mink food. It's like giving a mink a McDonald's."

Unfortunately the weekend mass mink release was in the valley of Hampshire's River Avon - which until now has had one of the healthiest water vole populations in the country, partly because mink in the area are strictly controlled by gamekeepers.

"The Avon water voles will be hammered now, as will the waterfowl and the ground-nesting birds with their second broods," said Mr Davidson-Watts. "Most of the released mink won't survive, in fact they will die a horrible death of starvation - their mothers haven't taught them to look after themselves - but they will trash the local wildlife in the process. They can range 20km in a day."

The Hampshire Wildlife Trust is also concerned about the threat to water voles and birds, possibly waders along the New Forest coast, where the mink may spread. It is concerned, too, that public over-reaction to the release may threaten the others that are just coming back to the Hampshire Avon after 10 years of conservation work.

"It would be absolutely dreadful if any others were trapped or poisoned or shot by over-zealous people who were trying to control the mink," said conservation officer Debbie Wicks.

MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Leading article.
Review page 3

THE PREDATOR BRED FOR ITS FUR

Mink are members of the Mustelidae family of animals which includes the weasel, stoat, ferret, otter and polecat.

In Britain about 50,000 mink are skinned and killed each year.

Mink from North America were first imported to Britain in 1920 for fur farms.

All other species introduced to Britain - such

as squirrels and deer - are herbivores whereas mink are carnivorous.

The mink makes its home by lining its den with fur and feathers from the victims of its forays.

A mink can roam up to four square miles to seek its prey.

Mink live on average less than a year and most die after fighting with other mink.

Mink are blood-thirsty predators and are not fussy about what they eat - birds, eggs, small mammals, such as water voles (right), or fish.

Mink can be found everywhere in Britain except north west Wales and northern Scotland.

If baby mink are separated from their parents they become extremely distressed and gnaw their tails.



gled-looking creature, its fur matted with mud, tall drooping between its legs. It had been lurking in a nearby ditch, and was thought to have had mischief on its mind.

"When a mink gets into a place like this, it's like walking into a supermarket," said Peter Berry. "It sees enough food for ten days, and it smells the fresh meat. If it was a wild polecat or ferret, all well and good. But this lot, they just kill for the sake of it."

Yesterday a crisis meeting of landowners, gamekeepers and pest control officers was held at Ringwood police station. It was resolved, somewhat belatedly, to set up a hotline so that locals can report errant mink. But that seemed hardly likely to solve the conundrum of hordes of cunning and hungry creatures marauding around the countryside. Local police are weary of fielding calls. "The problem is that no one is prepared to take responsibility," said a police spokeswoman. "We think it should be up to the Ministry of Agriculture, but MAFF doesn't seem to want to know."

choked with tourists heading to the New Forest, are pockmarked with little bloody heaps. Others have been killed more calculatedly. For these factory-farmed creatures are not only tasting the joys of hunting for the first time; they are also finding out what it is like to be hunted. Scores of grim-faced farmers were out with shotguns yesterday, protecting their livestock.

Mink, it must be said, are accustomed to meeting a violent end. They live on average less than a year, and one of the main causes of death is fighting with other mink. Conservationists say they kill for kicks as well as to eat. They even line their dens with the fur and feathers of their hapless victims.

At the New Forest Owl Sanctuary, near Ringwood,

Bruce Berry, the director, woke on Sunday morning to find a kestrel and a tawny owl dead, their heads surgically removed. Yesterday, a barn owl was killed.

"I haven't slept since Saturday; it's a nightmare," said Mr Berry, gun in hand. "They could get in here and kill every single bird. They can slide through the tiniest hole. There's no way you can make

the whole place mink-proof." Shots rang out rhythmically throughout the day as keepers at the sanctuary scored hit after hit. By late afternoon, the scoreboard stood at 30. But at the first word of a sighting, it was a case of the nearest weapon to hand. Peter Berry, Bruce's son, showed off a mink that he had bashed over the head with a garden hoe. It was a pathetic, bedrag-

Thames commuter service scuppered by lack of money

AMBITIOUS PLANS for a frequent river bus service on the Thames were effectively sunk yesterday after the company promoting the scheme failed to raise sufficient funds on the stock market.

White Horse Fast Ferries, which won the licence to run ferry commuters along the river, needed £1.5m from shareholders - but only managed

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

£500,000 by the time the deadline expired yesterday.

The service would have seen a fast ferry run between Greenwich and the Millennium Dome as well as boats stopping close to some of the best-known restaurants in London, such as at the Savoy and the Oxo Tower

on the South Bank. The plan also would have meant that commuters could use Underground and bus tickets on the ferry.

"I blame the City institutions," said Peter Lay, chief executive of White Horse Fast Ferries. "Everyone wanted this scheme to work, including many corporate investors who were busy promoting the

Thames. But not one of them put their money where their mouth was."

The service was due to start next June, but the collapse of the venture means that river bus operations are sure to be delayed. White Horse had specially designed and built two "tri-marans" for the service and had plans for another three to be in service by 2000.

"What I will do is close down our shipyard and just build offices over it," said Mr Lay. "It will mean the loss of two dozen highly skilled jobs."

The failure will be an embarrassment for John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister with responsibility for transport, who has been championing the river as an alternative means of crossing the capital.

Mr Prescott has already proposed eight new piers, to add to the existing 14, on the river in anticipation of the new ferry service.

London River Services (LRS), the division of London Transport which has responsibility for the scheme, said that the river buses could be using the Thames before 2000. In a statement released yesterday,

the river authority said: "London River Services and White Horse Ferries will meet as soon as possible to discuss the way forward and will be working hard to develop a plan so that a central London hopper service... will go ahead."

LRS said it would also be talking to other prospective operators to rescue the river bus service.

The last ferry service on the river for commuters ran between Chelsea Harbour and Canary Wharf. It collapsed after the owners of Canary Wharf, Olympia & York, went bankrupt in the late Eighties.

"That was almost making money and that was when only 10 per cent of Canary Wharf was occupied - now it is virtually full," said one expert.

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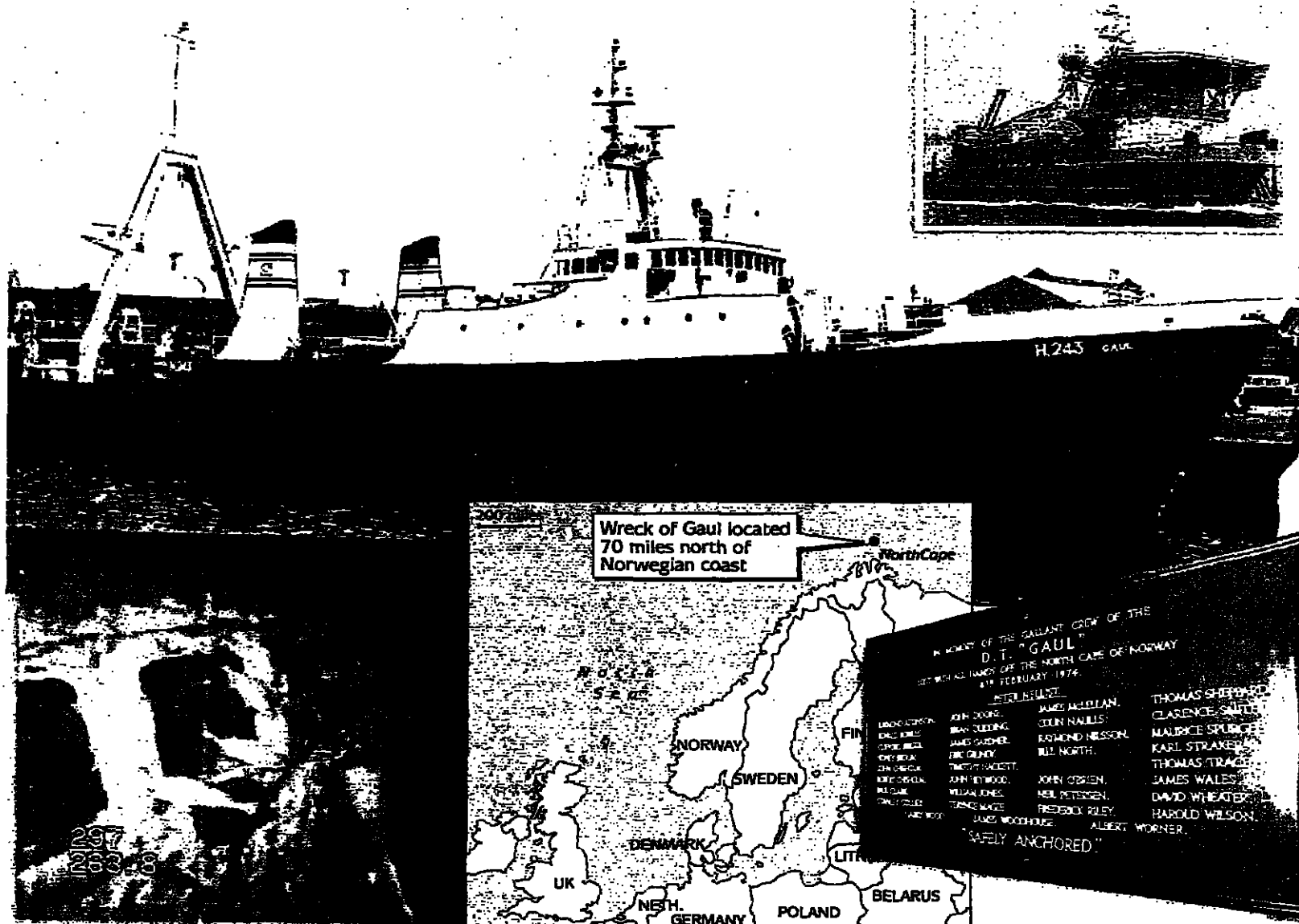
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to kill
husband



Unmanned submarines from the salvage ship Mansal 18 (inset) have taken pictures (bottom left) of the trawler Gaul, which went down in 1974 with the loss of all hands, including skipper Peter Nellist (top right)

Rescue chief says: 'She's not afloat in search area. We are looking for rafts'

Hopes fading for 36 in silent Arctic trawler

By Andrew Lister
SEARCHERS for the missing Arctic trawler Gaul have been told that the ship is not afloat in the search area. The rescue chief says: 'She's not afloat in search area. We are looking for rafts'.

Robot subs take film of sunken Gaul

MARINE INVESTIGATORS sent down unmanned submarines yesterday to the final resting place of the Hull trawler Gaul as they started their efforts to solve the mystery of why it sank 24 years ago.

The Mansal 18, a purpose built survey ship hired by the British government, arrived above the wreck, in the Barents Sea 70 miles north of Norway's North Cape, on Sunday night. The Mansal's crew used the submarines, fitted with video cameras, to relay pictures back to the survey ship. The investigators hope they will provide vital clues to the sinking.

Relatives of some of the 36 fishermen who died in the tragedy were watching when

BY PAUL LASHMAR

the first pictures were received. Aubrey Bowles, whose 22-year-old brother Ronald was lost with the Gaul, said: 'At the beginning it was with trepidation that we came here, but now that we are here and we have identified the wreck, it is with a bit of satisfaction that we are now maybe getting close to the truth of what really happened 24 years ago.'

'At the moment, we are just doing a debris search around the vessel before we actually go in for close contact.'

Marine Accident Investigation Board spokesman David Stewart said: 'One remote operated vehicle (ROV) has been

sent down with cameras on board and has sent pictures back up to the ship.

'You can see lifeboats there, and we have clearly seen the word "Gaul" written on the side of the boat. Weather conditions are good and the sea is calm, and the team are working 24 hours a day to get as much information as they can before returning.'

The Gaul had been partly covered by fishing nets. 'The nets have now been lifted by the ROVs and the ROVs are continuing to manoeuvre around the boat. We have to be very careful because earlier today one of them snagged on the nets,' said Mr Stewart.

The Gaul is lying on its hull

on the seabed some 300 metres down. There are no signs of an explosion, nor are there any signs of compression, which indicates that ship sank slowly.

It is this lack of damage and the fact that none of the ship's distress systems were set off that is puzzling the investigators. If the ship sank slowly why did the crew not send a Mayday message? That has led families of the victims to suspect that the crew was taken by the Soviets and the ship then scuttled.

One of the major concerns of the families is to establish whether there are any remains of bodies on the wreck.

Mr Bowles, 53, from Wallsend, Tyneside, said that he hoped the ROVs would enter

the ship and film the bodies of his brother and other crewmen.

The Russians deny sinking the ship or any involvement and have helped recent TV investigations. However the Soviets are known to have seized British trawlers. In the 1950s the trawler Arnold Bennett disappeared and funeral services were held. Twenty-three days after it vanished the crew re-established radio contact, having been released from custody by the Soviets.

Evidence has grown of the involvement of Hull trawlers in secret intelligence operations against the Soviet Navy's northern fleet. Last year the Ministry of Defence finally admitted that Hull trawlers were

hired to conduct such missions, but insisted that these operations stopped in 1973, a year before the sinking. It has now emerged that trawlers sometimes carried naval intelligence or GCHQ officers.

Last week Hull skipper Jack Lilley said that Peter Nellist, later skipper of the Gaul, helped him take photographs of a Soviet naval port for British Intelligence.

Another member of the Gaul's crew, Maurice Spurgeon, had also been involved in intelligence operations when he was mate of the Hull fishing vessel Invincible, which worked for the MOD. Roy Waller, the Invincible's skipper, said that Mr Spurgeon collaborated closely

with the naval intelligence officer in charge.

For many years the British Government resisted pressure from the families to examine the ship, saying it would be too expensive to find. As recently as 1996 it said: 'Because of the limited information about the Gaul's position when she went down it would be necessary to search hundreds, probably thousands of square miles of sea bed.'

In 1997 Channel Four's Dispatches team hired a salvage ship and located the wreck.

The programme also revealed that several bodies were washed up on the Soviet coast after the Gaul was lost. Most of the Gaul's crew would have

been below because of the poor weather conditions, but the men in the bridge could have been washed overboard.

Three bodies were washed up on the Rybachy Peninsula of northern Russia in April 1974 and were found by Soviet border guards. They were later interred in municipal cemeteries. One body was buried at a small, bleak cemetery outside the town of Nikel, marked by a small stone cairn and wooden cross.

A few days later a third body floated ashore, tattooed with English words. The body was taken away but its burial place is unknown - the records have disappeared from Soviet archives.

Tall boys refused job sue firm for discrimination

A MAN who was turned down for a factory job because he was too tall to work on a production line said yesterday that the rejection brought back childhood psychological problems.

Lincoln Dodd and 6ft 2in Barry Sele are suing Sun Valley Foods, claiming sex discrimination because they were turned down for jobs because of their height.

The pair, who have both worked for the poultry and meatpacking firm in the past, said that the height restriction discriminated against men because women are, on average, shorter.

Mr Dodd, 27, told an industrial tribunal in Hereford that the rejection for the job last December had 'devastated' him.

Mr Sele, 21, said he could not understand it when the company nurse carrying out a pre-

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

employment medical told him his height meant he had no chance of a job.

'The nurse asked me how tall I was and I said 6ft 2in, and she said there was no job for me because I was too tall,' he said. 'I was really amazed. She said they had just brought in new guidelines saying they were not allowing people of a certain height.'

'I was not measured apart from my overall height and then she just asked me if I wanted to be walked off the premises.'

The company, which makes processed meats for Tesco, McDonald's and other leading retailers, said the two men were not turned away because of their height, but because their 'very long spines' - in relation to their thigh bones - made them more likely to suffer from back injuries while working on the production line.

The tribunal heard that Sun Valley automatically rejected all applicants over 6ft 5in and referred people between 6ft 5in and 6ft 6in to its occupational health centre.

Before the hearing a spokesman said the company was merely acting in a responsible manner in avoiding injury to employees.

'If you are more than 6ft 5in, it is likely you are so tall that you will damage yourself doing the job,' he said.

Outside the tribunal, Mr Dodd said that his height had been a real problem when he was growing up.

'When I was 11 or 12 I even asked my mum and dad if I could have an operation to stop me growing,' he said.

'My mum said I would be glad when I was older. But when I was turned down for

the Sun Valley job it brought back all those childhood psychological problems.'

Both men told the hearing that they had previously worked for the Hereford plant without any difficulties. Mr Dodd's previous job involved mixing, weighing and loading chicken and other meats in preparation for the production line.

Phil Heinrich, founder of the Tall Persons' Club of Great Britain and Ireland, said that applying any form of height criteria would automatically adversely affect men.

'Men would be rejected at height levels to a much greater extent - perhaps 40 to 80 times as many men would be rejected as women,' said the 6ft 8in Mr Heinrich.

The most recent health department statistics show that 12 per cent of men and 0.1 per cent of women are over 6ft.

Frederick was classified as a 'security risk' by the Germans and was interned as a prisoner of war in Germany in 1914.

He was released two years later and returned to Britain where he settled in the West Country. But his time in a prison camp had left him weakened. He caught Spanish influenza and had to be taken to hospital - carried by eight men.

Three beds were moved together to accommodate him but Frederick succumbed to his illness and died in 1918 at the age of 29. Fourteen men were needed to lower the nine-foot coffin into the grave.

At 8 feet 4.5 inches, Frederick was six-and-a-half inches shorter than the world's tallest recorded man, Robert Wadlow of Illinois, who died in 1940.

KATE WATSON-SMYTH

Bang on the head made Fred grow to 8ft 4ins



Kempster and his mother, Florence Anglia Press

AT EIGHT FEET, four inches, Frederick Kempster still holds the record as Britain's tallest man, but his enormous height was due to an unfortunate accident as a child.

Born in 1889, the youngest of five children, who were all of normal height, Frederick, then aged 12, was leaning out of a window to get a better view of the Changing of the Guard ceremony when he lost his balance. He fell, and cracked his head on the pavement, disturbing a gland inside his skull which regulates growth.

By the time he was 20, Frederick was already 7 feet, 8-and-a-half inches tall, and weighed 22 stone. He found a job as a street-lamp lighter and was also employed to pick walnuts, but his height made him an object of fascination for both children

and adults. 'He was a real gentle giant,' said Colin Alexander-Jones, who has just finished researching a book on Mr Kempster's life.

When he stopped growing, Frederick weighed 27 stone and took size 22 shoes. His clothes were made to measure by a tailor in Scotland who marvelled at his size; his inside leg measured 60 inches, chest 66 inches and neck 18 inches.

He travelled everywhere in a special Model T Ford with no roof, allowing him to sit upright in the back. His outstretched arms had a reach of 13 feet, which made him the prized goalkeeper of the local football team.

Kempster later fell in love with a German girl, Brunhilde, who was 4 inches taller than he was. But when the First World War broke out,

Frederick was classified as a 'security risk' by the Germans and was interned as a prisoner of war in Germany in 1914.

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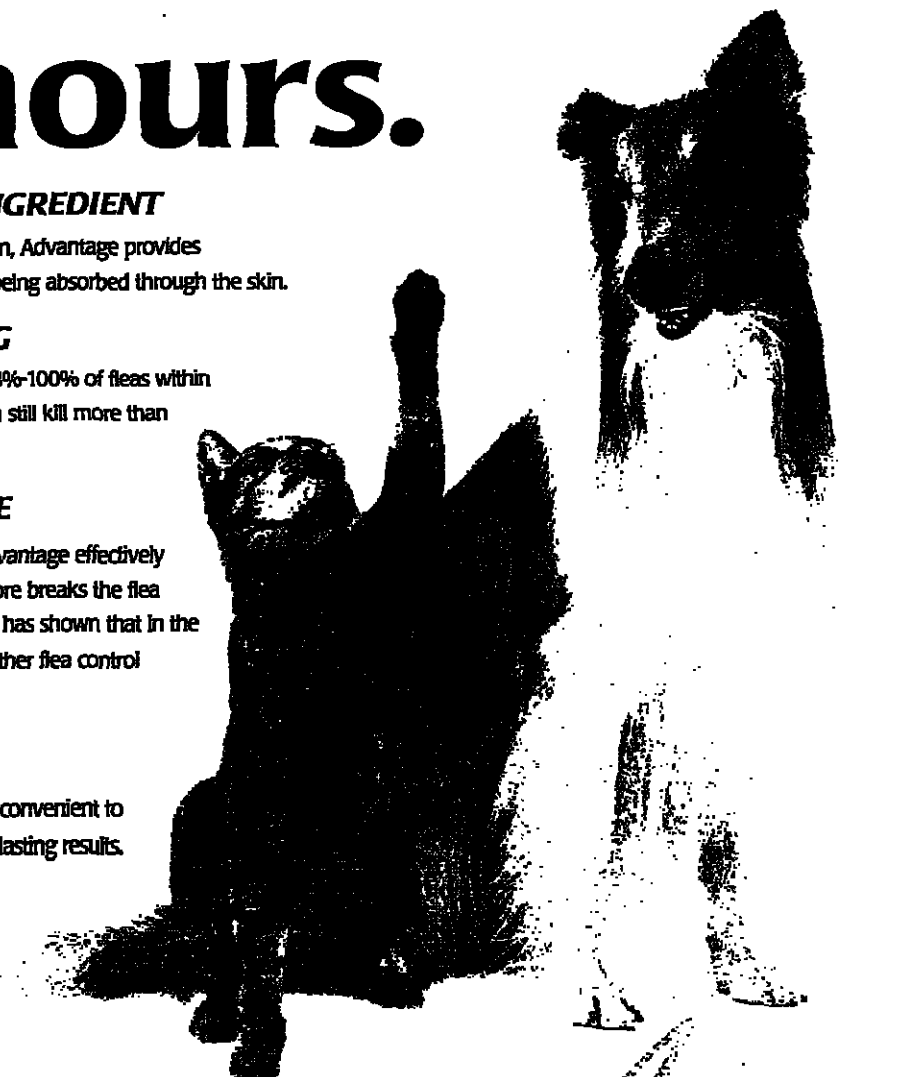
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A still from 'Resurrection Man', a film about the gang

Shankill butcher released from jail

By KIM SENGUPTA
in Belfast

A LEADING member of the notorious Shankill Butchers gang, which carried out series of sadistic sectarian murders of Catholics in the 1970s, has been released from prison despite a judge's recommendation that he should never be freed.

William Moore, a former member of the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force, was released on licence last month after serving 21 years of his sentence, and has since been living in Belfast.

Moore, now 48, was given 14 life sentences in 1979 for his involvement in 19 murders, 11 of which he admitted.

The trial judge, Mr Justice O'Donnell said: "You pleaded guilty to 11 murders carried out in a manner so cruel and revolting as to be beyond the comprehension of any normal human being."

"I'm satisfied that, without you, many of the murders would not have been committed... I see no reason whatsoever, apart from terminal illness, why you should ever be released." The judge added



Gang leader William Moore at the time of his trial in 1979. Above: the blood-drenched body of one of the 19 victims of the Shankill Butchers, dumped in an alleyway in west Belfast



Pacemaker

that if Moore was ever released it should not be for at least 35 years.

Last summer, the Life Sentences Review Board allowed Moore to enrol on a scheme for working out of prison for restricted periods.

Under the terms of his release, he can be recalled to jail if he is deemed, once again, to be a threat to society.

Moore, a meatpacker by trade, supplied an assortment of knives and cleavers used by the gang to carry out random abductions of Catholics who were then tortured, mutilated and killed. He is alleged to

have personally slit the throat of one victim, and kicked another to death.

Moore also drove a black taxi used by the gang to cruise the streets of Belfast seeking Catholics to kill. Some were intercepted merely because they were walking "in the wrong direction" towards Catholic parts of the city.

The gang also killed some Protestants by mistake, and a number of others in inter-sectarian feuds between loyalist groups.

Moore became leader of the Shankill gang, taking over from Lenny Murphy who was jailed in 1976 and shot dead in 1982

after his release. The assassination was carried out by the IRA, but it was strongly suspected that it had been set up by fellow members of the UVF who had begun to see him as a dangerous maverick.

Another member of the gang, William "Basher" Bates was freed in 1997 and killed in an attack eight months later in retaliation. It is suspected, for one of the gang's Protestant murders.

Moore, according to a former loyalist paramilitary, is "only too aware" that he could also be a target and is keen to keep a low profile.

The notoriety that the gang achieved because of the savagery of their crimes will be hard to dispel. Earlier this year, the film *Resurrection Man*, loosely based on the activities of the Shankill Butchers, was released amid controversy.

The Northern Ireland Office said yesterday that it could not comment on individual prisoners. However, sources pointed out that Moore was not freed under the provisions of the Good Friday agreement, but under previous rules.

His release comes at a particularly sensitive time amid concern about former terrorists

returning to the streets, and just days after the release in the Irish Republic of the IRA bomber, Thomas McMahon, who murdered Lord Mountbatten.

Commenting on Moore's release, Alex Attwood, a Social Democratic and Labour Party councillor, said: "Obviously the release of people convicted of the most brutal of murders will register deeply within the nationalist community."

"However, if the procedures for the release of such people have been followed closely, if that person is no longer a risk to the community, and has paid

his debt to society, he should be considered for release."

Mr Attwood's view is not shared by at least one relative of a victim killed by the gang. "Twenty one years does not seem very long considering what they did," the relative, who did not wish to be identified, said. "Obviously I am very concerned but there is little we can do about it. He [Moore] is still under 50 and has a life left, unlike those he killed."

In another development, Billy Hutchinson, a Progressive Unionist Party (PU) member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, was due to meet the

security minister, Adam Ingram, yesterday to express his concern at how the peace process was helping republicans but obstructing loyalists. He said it was time to "get the republican jackboot" off the neck of unionists.

Newt Gingrich, speaker of the US House of Representatives arrives in Ulster today to meet members of political parties from both sides of the community. He is the first senior American politician to visit the province since the signing of the Good Friday deal, and has already met representatives of the Irish government.

Man died after police sprayed him with CS gas

By ROGER DOBSON

POLICE used CS spray on a mentally ill man shortly before he was found dead in the attic of his home.

A Police Complaints Authority inquiry has confirmed the spray was used on Mark Bell, 26, while he was alone in the loft of the family home, where his body was found hanging a short time later.

"He was in a loft, he doesn't appear to have been going anywhere, or to have been a threat or danger, so why was there a need to use CS spray, which is intended as a last resort?" said Jenny Wilmot, policy officer for MIND, the mental health charity.

A second PCA inquiry has been carried out on the case of another mentally ill man seriously injured when jumping through a window after he too had been sprayed with CS.

The investigations come amid growing concern about the use of CS spray on mentally ill people.

The first legal challenge to the use of CS on the mentally ill is already under way: a 28-

year old Cambridge man claims he was assaulted with CS in his home and that its use denied him his constitutional rights as a patient.

Yesterday the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) urged the Government to provide new guidelines on use of the spray with the mentally ill.

A PCA report on Mr Bell has been completed and is expected to confirm Humberside police used CS at his home in Scunthorpe two months ago. Earlier in the day he had been treated at hospital because of concerns about his health. It is understood he discharged himself against advice.

When police arrived at his home he retreated to the loft, where spray was used.

Mr Bell, a father of three, was found asphyxiated in the loft.

The cause of death is thought to have been hanging; an inquest has yet to be held. In the second case, the PCA

has been investigating how a 28-year-old Hebden Bridge man was critically injured in a fall from a fourth-storey window soon after being sprayed with CS. Attempts were being made to take him to hospital and there was a social worker in attendance. The man is believed to have thrown himself through a window.

A West Yorkshire Police spokesman said yesterday: "We conducted a full inquiry and we have submitted a final report to the PCA and we are now awaiting a response. We were asked to attend by the psychiatric service to help transfer the man to hospital. CS spray was used during the incident."

In Cambridge, a 28-year-old man is suing police for alleged assault with a CS spray and for violating his rights as a patient. It is the first case of its kind.

He is suing for assault and exemplary damages for police violation of his constitutional rights as a patient being detained under the Mental Health Act. It is claimed he was sprayed in his home in the

presence of his family and a social worker, who also suffered the burning after-effects of the spray, as he was about to be taken to hospital.

An added problem with the use of CS sprays on the mentally ill is the risk of dangerous interactions with the cocktails of drugs that many mental ill people are taking.

Although CS is regularly used on the mentally ill, no research has been done on the reaction of CS chemicals with the powerful anti-psychotic medication and its effect on behaviour. MIND wants an immediate halt to the use of the spray on mentally ill people and is especially concerned about its use when patients are being taken to hospital.

A PCA spokesman said it had received the final report on the man who died in Scunthorpe and was examining it prior to giving it to the coroner.

"The Hebden Bridge investigation has also been completed and we are examining that too. In both cases CS spray was involved."

Anger at DTI trip to Nigeria

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT'S ethical foreign policy came under attack yesterday after it was revealed that the Department of Trade and Industry is funding a UK trade mission to Nigeria.

Anti-censorship group Article 19 said the decision to support the trip in October by Birmingham Chamber of Commerce would offer succour to the country's military regime.

Each of the 27 British-based companies on the three-day mission will receive grants from the DTI. The firms are

looking to reap lucrative oil and construction contracts.

John Lamb, spokesman for the Chamber, said: "With export opportunities as they are, our companies can't afford to turn their back on any country, no matter what its human rights situation."

News of the mission came as Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs signed a Commons motion calling on the suspension of all

such contacts with Nigeria.

The African state remains suspended from the Commonwealth for its poor human rights record following the execution of dissident Ken Saro-Wiwa and other activists.

Although no UN trade sanctions have been enacted, the European Union has banned all relations with the Nigerian military and imposed an arms embargo and visa restrictions.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook singled out Nigeria for condemnation when he first

launched his ethical foreign policy last year and insisted that it should remain suspended from the Commonwealth.

However, a Foreign Office spokesman said: "In terms of international obligations, there is nothing that stands in the way of trade in Nigeria."

Frances D'Souza, executive director of Article 19, said that financial and political support for this trade mission to Nigeria made a mockery of Foreign Secretary's Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy.

Bugs Bunny in blackmail plot

By PAT CLARKE

BUGS BUNNY and Sinbad the Sailor videos were used in an attempt to blackmail the owner of Harrods, Mohamed al-Fayed, an Old Bailey court heard yesterday.

The would-be extortionists claimed the innocent videos - bought at a motorway service station - contained material that would cause huge embarrassment to Mr Fayed.

But the threat was "completely untrue" and was simply a confidence trick, said

Crossley, now blind from a road accident, had masterminded the scheme to try to extract £75,000. He recruited Peach only on the day he was to meet Harrods' head of security, John McNamara - who had already alerted police.

Recorder Brian Barker described the plan as "opportunistic". He added: "It was bizarre and bungling to the extreme. Any large organisation - well known organisation - is vulnerable. People in public

life are also vulnerable. They are entitled to expect protection from the courts."

The identity of blackmail victims is usually not revealed, but Mr Coleman said that there was no truth in the claims.

Mr Fayed had featured prominently in the media for a variety of reasons and was known as a wealthy man, said prosecution.

Crossley, an undischarged bankrupt, had previous convictions for deception.

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Editor of shelved 'Sporting Life' is sacked

By PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

THE RELAUNCH of Mirror Group's *Sporting Life* newspaper was thrown into turmoil yesterday when the editor was sacked while he was out buying a sandwich.

John Mulholland, former media editor of *The Guardian*, was fired after arguing with Mirror Group management about the way a delay in the project was handled last week.

Mr Mulholland is understood to have written to David Montgomery, chief executive of the newspaper group, stating that he could no longer work with Jeremy Reed, managing director of *Sporting Life*.

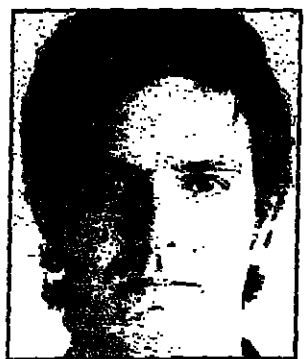
Mr Mulholland was furious that he was kept in the dark about a hiring freeze which

preceded a decision last week to delay the relaunch of the newspaper.

The 150-year-old racing title closed earlier this year and was supposed to relaunch on 19 October as a general sports newspaper modelled on the Italian daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

However Mirror Group announced last week that it was delaying the relaunch until next year pending extra market research into the project.

Mr Mulholland had already offered 65 journalists jobs on the new newspaper, 21 of those had been offered posts while he



John Mulholland (left), and David Montgomery



was in the dark about the hiring freeze.

In a day of frantic activity following the return of Mirror Group chief executive David Montgomery from holiday the

media group issued a statement: "MGN has terminated the employment of John Mulholland with immediate effect. His continued presence would further delay and put in jeopardy the whole project. In the face of misleading articles, the company wishes to reassure all those journalists employed on the *Sporting Life* project that it will proceed under new and professional leadership."

Richard Ellis, deputy editor of the newspaper, is understood to be staying with the project. Mr Mulholland failed to secure a meeting with Mr Montgomery to discuss the position of journalists who have resigned their old jobs and now face a delayed launch of *Sporting Life*. Before he could meet Mr Montgomery the statement announcing his sacking was issued while he was out of his office at lunch. The newspaper's skeleton staff had to con-

tact Mr Mulholland to tell him the news after it appeared as a Press Association story.

A clearly bitter Mr Mulholland said: "Apparently I didn't have the required managerial skills demanded by Mirror Group. This comes as no surprise - it is in a league of its own when it comes to managerial skills."

"The people I feel most sorry for are the 65 journalists who agreed to join - leaving brilliant jobs - on the basis of the vision we outlined. The fact that I could not match David Montgomery's peerless managerial technique is, of course, a huge disappointment to me."

Media, Tuesday Review, page 13

Planet Earth has hottest July in history

BY STEVE CONNOR AND
DIANA BLAMIRE

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE readings for last month have revealed that it was the warmest July since records began as most of Britain yesterday experienced its hottest day of the year.

Much of Europe was also experiencing blistering heat. In Cyprus, 48 people have died since Friday in one of the worst heatwaves in decades. Hundreds had to seek treatment for heat exhaustion in packed hospital wards. Temperatures there hit 43 degrees C (110 F) - the highest recorded in 40 years.

In Paris, tourists and residents alike flocked to the city's many water fountains to cool off as temperatures soared toward 40C. With few breezes in the French capital, pollution increased to danger levels causing police to urge motorists to leave their cars at home and take public transport.

Worldwide, monthly temperatures indicate that this year is going to be the warmest for more than a century with every month of the year so far beating previous records.

Figures released yesterday by the US National Climate Data Centre in Boulder, Colorado have confirmed that the record-breaking temperatures monitored for each month have continued into the second half of 1998. Dr Tom Peterson, a meteorologist at the centre, said the figures, amassed from hundreds of weather stations around the world, indicate that 1998 will be an unprecedented



A tourist cooling down in a Trafalgar Square fountain yesterday as temperatures rose to 32C on the hottest day of the year so far

Alastair Grant/AP

year in terms of global warming. This is largely because of the El Niño, a Pacific Ocean current responsible for disturbing weather patterns around the globe.

"Part of this warming is the warmth that was left over from

a very strong El Niño, which radiated heat into the atmosphere. But at the same time we've seen a warming trend since the late 1800s," Dr Peterson said.

So far the world is 0.25C warmer than it was in 1997,

which was itself a record-breaking year. Scientists said that the increase, although small, is having a recognisable influence on weather around the world. Much of the southern parts of Britain experienced their warmest day of the year

with temperatures soaring to 30C at Gatwick airport, one of the hottest spots in the south east.

Industry bosses warned employees not to use the late arrival of summer as an excuse for an unofficial holiday.

Ruth Lee, policy director at the Institute of Directors, said: "There may well be people trying to claim to be sick because the sun is out is breaking a contract. If a lot of people take time off unofficially it may have an impact on the economy."

But Britain's tourist industry welcomed the sun, especially in the south west where cool, rainy weather has caused a fall in turnover. In the north of England it is a slightly different picture. Many areas have suffered a virtually sunless summer.

Cumbrian Tourist Board operations director Ian Stephens said: "It's been a triple whammy - the strong pound has encouraged people to get good deals abroad, then there was the World Cup and the terrible weather."

'Dear Tony, Having a lovely time in Hove, love Janet'

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

IT'S A hard life, being her Majesty's Minister for Tourism. While colleagues enjoyed the hottest day of the year in the stuffy splendour of Whitehall, the new Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport was packed off to the seaside yesterday to endure strolls along the beach, sight-seeing and generally experience the distressing sensation of wind in her hair and sun on her skin.

Stunned by criticism that its obsession with Cool Britannia had led the Government to neglect tourism, the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, has sent his friendliest minister on a tour of our finest coastal towns. A cynic might say Britannia doesn't come more uncool than Hove in 90F heat, but this once-dowdy Victorian spinster of a resort is now an extension of hip and happening Brighton and Ms Anderson gave it her full attention.

She met instructors and kids at Hove Lagoon Watersport Centre in a photo opportunity that would have paralysed most of her colleagues. After meeting a surfer called Vincent - "Hello, I'm Janet Anderson. Don't call me Janet, call me Janet" - "Hey, Minister, call me Janet" - "Hey, right, cool" - Ms Anderson threw off her shoes and clambered on to a board, balancing for the cameras like a Bondi



Ms Anderson flying the flag in Hove Andrew Hasson

veteran. Okay, the board was on land, but the children were impressed.

As the woman who, in opposition, promised more orgasms under Labour, Ms Anderson is an inspired choice as Minister for Sun, Sea and Sex. While most politicians think of a flip-flop as another Government U-turn, the minister conducted her first day's visits and openings with all the unflappable polish of a tour guide. Her tour, which will cover every region of England, is part of preparations for a tourism strategy to be published later this year.

Between sightseeing and beach-combing the minister managed to get the council and the Metropole Hotel to sign up to the New Deal to help the jobless. "As the new Minister for Tourism I am determined to be its partner and champion and give every en-

couragement to this process." But was it coincidence that the tour began just as the weather improved? "Of course, the weather is absolutely marvellous today, and I am looking forward to being out of parliament during the recess," Ms Anderson confessed.

One has to ask why, if Britain's resorts are so good, the Prime Minister and half the Cabinet are holidaying in Tuscany, Cape Cod and elsewhere, but the minister isn't caught out so easily. "I hope to go to the Lake District for a few days later on," she said.

With Ms Anderson set to become a seaside feature to rival strappy deckchairs and kids with ice-cream chins, one suspects the first entrepreneur to produce "Kiss me Quick" hats with the slogan "Go away Minister, I'm on holiday" will make a fortune.

Tied travel insurance deals are outlawed

BY GLENDA COOPER

TRAVEL AGENTS and tour operators will no longer be able to force holidaymakers to buy travel insurance if they want to take advantage of discount holiday deals, the Government announced yesterday.

Kim Howells, the Consumer Affairs Minister, has signed an order under the Fair Trading Act 1973 to stop the practice, which can lead to consumers being misled over the discounts they get on travel.

The action follows a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report last December. The MMC found that tying discounts on holidays to travel insurance allowed travel agents to advertise larger discounts and make up their profits with the hefty commissions on policy sales. As a result consumers were misled into thinking they

were getting bigger discounts on holidays than they were.

The new rules will make it illegal for travel agents and tour operators to discriminate against customers over the price of a foreign holiday if they refuse holiday insurance.

The MMC also found the use of "most favoured customer" clauses led to some travel agents not offering discounts they would otherwise be prepared to offer, resulting in higher prices for consumers. "Most favoured customer" clauses form part of the agreement between a tour operator and a travel agent which require the travel agent to promote equally holidays from different tour operators. This effectively restricts the travel

agent's ability to offer bigger discounts on some tour operators' holidays.

Nearly one in six young people have sex with a new partner when they go on holiday abroad but only half of them bother to use a condom, according to a new survey.

The Health Education Authority survey of 400 people aged 18 to 32 who had just returned from a holiday abroad found that more women than men said that they never used a condom. Only 12 per cent even recognised HIV as a health issue for overseas travellers.

The HEA's campaign to educate young people on the dangers of unprotected sex will mean adverts carrying the safer sex message will be placed on charter flights to beach resorts.

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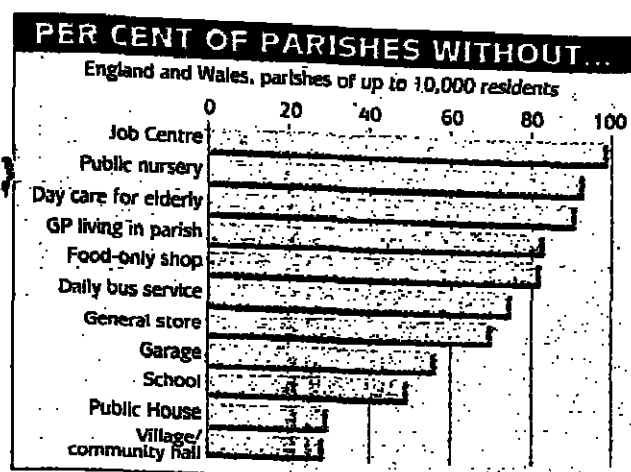
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Sainsbury's offers aid to village shops



BRENDA ERSCOTT's small shop in the peaceful Dorset village of Halstock is jammed full of supplies: jars, packets and tins that could form the basis of the weekly shopping, or provide salvation in an emergency. From this week, Mrs Erscott's already crowded shelves will be bolstered with items from the Sainsbury's range. In a unique experiment, the supermarket giant will act as a wholesaler and allow village shopkeepers to sell on its items to their customers. Shopkeepers will be able to set their own prices.

The experiment, which is being piloted in six parts of Britain, is the latest twist in the ongoing battle to try and save the nation's village stores.

A study published earlier this year by the Rural Development Commission, a statutory body which provides advice and grants to help save rural services, showed that in England alone, since 1991, 4,000 village shops had been lost. The survey studied parishes with up to 10,000 residents, and showed that 82 per cent no longer had a food-only shop (a butcher or green-grocer, for example), while 70 per cent had no general store.

Halstock, which in 1941 was placed under the control of the Bishop of Sherborne by King Aethelred, fought to keep a shop when its longstanding store closed in 1991. Villagers raised £15,000 to rent a cottage and Mrs Erscott and her retired husband, Charles, became its managers.

It is ironic that Sainsbury's should be involved in a project to save village shops, as supermarkets and out-of-town complexes have been blamed for the demise of the local store.

But Richard Fry, a trustee of

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

the Village Retail Services Association (Virus) which set up this project, said that that did not have to be the case. "We have never criticised supermarkets as marking the death-knell of village shops," he said.

"We realise that, at the end of the day, the customer is king. Supermarkets and out-of-town stores are there, but people do not have to use them. It is vital to realise that people's lifestyles have changed as well.

"People who live in villages do not spend all their time there. Most have cars and will go to places where there are supermarkets."

In addition to the steady growth of supermarkets and out-of-town stores, other retail outlets such as garages now sell items once provided to villagers by the local shop.

The Rural Development Commission also identified the change in lifestyle as a factor in the demise of the village shop.

"People no longer necessarily work in the villages where they live," said Isobel Coy, a spokeswoman for the commission. "Very often people will shop where they work and then drive home with their shopping."

"We think the village store is a vital part of village life - particularly for people who have no car, or who have some mobility problem," she added.

"When you bear in mind that 75 per cent of villages do not have a daily bus service, this can be a real problem."

Virus believes that the Sainsbury's scheme will help shopkeepers by allowing them to buy one or two items from a supermarket rather than a dozen or two dozen from a wholesaler.



Brenda Erscott stocking up on Sainsbury's products in her village store in Halstock, Dorset, as part of a pilot scheme to help local shops flourish

Chris Ison

This will allow stores to improve their range without the risk of getting left with scores of unsold, out-of-date items.

It will also enable them to provide unusual or luxury items in which one or two of their regular customers have expressed an interest.

"All we want is to try and give smaller shopkeepers the chance to play on a level playing field," said Mr Fry. "A shop is vital to a community. A community without a shop has no soul. It is a focal point, something central." Sainsbury's sees no conflict of interest in what it is doing.

The company will provide point-of-sale advertising for the village shops and a spokesman for the supermarket chain admitted that extending the places where its products were sold could only be a good thing. "[We] believe that the strength and quality of the

Sainsbury's brand will provide local shopkeepers with a real opportunity of improving their overall offer to rural communities," said David Clapham, director of the company's special business units.

Mrs Erscott is optimistic about the scheme: "I have

many regular customers. They are very loyal but we could always do with some more," she said. "The shop has its ups and downs and there have been times when I have thought about giving it all up. I have got thousands of different lines in here. It's a small place and

there is not a lot of room, but I have as much as possible."

Mrs Erscott hopes that the scheme will allow her to offer an even wider range to her regulars.

But it will not help another village institution: Halstock's only pub shut last year.

Firm running business in jail given free power

A ROW has broken out at board level in the Prison Service because an American-owned company was allowed to run a private business from inside a prison, taking advantage of free electricity, gas and telephone facilities.

Wackenhut (UK), a division of a large American security company, runs a laundry and engineering business from within the walls of Coldingley prison, in Surrey. Most of its workers are serving prisoners. The company was allowed free utilities worth £40,000 and was given an interest-free loan of £100,000 from the Prison Service to buy raw materials.

Critics in Prison Service headquarters said the special treatment was given to Wackenhut because jail bosses want similar privately run projects to be set up at other jails and were desperate for the venture to

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

succeed. One source said: "Why would you enter a contract with somebody and then loan them the money to do the work and give them free utilities? In a public service like ours, open dealing is essential. If proper accounting procedures have not been observed there should be a formal investigation."

Wackenhut's involvement at the prison is regarded as a flagship project designed to improve the profitability of prison industries by bringing in private-business efficiency.

Coldingley is one of half a dozen "industrial" prisons, providing inmates with low-paid employment which gives them work experience before their release. Wackenhut took over running the operation in November. Questions began to be asked about the contract negotiated by the Prison Service with the company after an independent researcher from Thames Valley University carried out a study of the efficiency of prison industries.

It was discovered that the private company was not being charged for its power or telephone calls and had been provided with the loan to overcome start-up problems.

The matter has been referred to Martin Narey, the director of regimes at the Prison Service, who is said to be "very unhappy" with the arrangements. Some senior officials have called for the affair to be passed to the service's internal audit investigation unit.

Last night the Prison Service said changes had been made to the original contract.

A spokesman said: "A formula has now been established for the payment of utilities. The governor is looking at ways of recovering utilities owed."

He said the loan had been in accordance with the contract and that the money would be repaid within the course of the financial year. The Home Office is anxious to make greater use of prison industries and part of the £200m made available for prisons in the comprehensive spending review will be spent in this area.

But Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said it was not clear that private companies were the best people to run such operations. He said: "If there are irregularities in this contract then there must be a full public inquiry."

No one from Wackenhut (UK) was available for comment.

Straw to bolster supervision of senior police officers

THE HOME Secretary is to bolster the body that oversees the work of chief constables in response to growing concern about the quality of some candidates for the top posts and the unprecedented number of police chiefs who have faced criticism.

As revealed in *The Independent* in June ministers are worried about the lack of management skills of some senior officers and have questioned their ability to effectively control multi-million pound budgets. Business leaders, managers, and ethnic community are to be encouraged to join police authorities in a recruitment drive expected to be launched next month.

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Jack Straw is also concerned about the lack of talented applicants available to fill some vacancies for the top police jobs. In the past year about 40 per cent of chief constables have left their posts in England and Wales.

To help raise standards a working party has been set up to examine the training and selection of senior officers.

Ministers also want to boost the skill and power of the 42 police authorities by introducing greater financial and management experts onto the boards. They hope to encourage more captains of industry to take up the five posts of the 17 strong

authorities reserved for "independent" members. Nine places are for county councilors and three are filled by magistrates.

Police authorities oversee the performance and strategic direction of forces in England and Wales as well as take a leading role in hiring and firing the chief constables.

The Association of Police Authorities, the umbrella body, will also be given a higher profile and more powerful advisory role. Angela Harris, deputy chairman of the APA speaking at a seminar last month criticised the current training system for "turning out an annual conveyor belt of future chief constables".

Alun Michael, the Home Of-

fice Minister said yesterday that police authorities will be given greater powers.

Plans to improve the way senior police officers are selected and trained are to be examined in a joint venture between the Home Office and policing bodies.

A working party of Home Office officials, representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities will meet for the first time next month to consider reforms to policing.

Under the proposals, chief constables would be required, for the first time, to attend courses for executives alongside senior managers from the business world and top civil servants.

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Tabloid knives out for Monica

AMONG ALL the pointed comments on the recent 24th anniversary of President Richard Nixon's resignation, one stood out. John Dean, the White House counsel rehabilitated as investment banker, penned a personal warning to Monica Lewinsky in the form of an open letter to the *New York Times*.

"Dear Monica," he wrote, congratulating Ms Lewinsky on her public silence so far. "If you go public... those who have a personal stake in Bill Clinton's presidency... will come roaring to his defence... You've seen the way Mr Clinton's defenders have dealt with accusations, whether founded or not, by Gennifer Flowers, Paula Jones and Kathleen Willey."

It was a timely warning. Monica Lewinsky had barely completed her testimony at the Washington Court House last week than her detractors were tuning up.

Most blatant is a series of articles in this week's *National Enquirer*, a gossip tabloid which gives the lowdown on the stars and the soap operas. Ms Lewinsky's face stares out from the cover, with the headline: "Monica's Story - I Just Wanted Bill To Love Me". Inside her bizarre world, "Underneath, a boxed headline read: 'The Abortion Shocker'."

Inside a double page is headed in red: "Strange, sick world of Monica Lewinsky". There is a reference to an abortion she supposedly sought after coming to Washington in 1995, and a note attributed to a psychiatrist, Dr Anthony Pietropinto, who says: "Call it a sick fantasy if you will, but she believes she meant something to this president."

There are also quotations, attributed to President Clinton

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

- via unidentified "friends" - saying: "The woman is dangerous. She hallucinates. She fantasizes. I don't know if she even knows what the truth really is any more."

More oblique, but also damaging to Ms Lewinsky, was an interview on the CNN show *Larry King Live* with a woman called Julie Steele. Ms Steele has alleged for the best part of a year that she lied to a *Newsweek* reporter to help her then friend, Kathleen Willey. Ms Willey had told the same reporter of an incident when, she alleged, President Clinton had groped her when she had gone to him to ask for a job. Ms Steele was to tell the reporter that Ms Willey had told her of the incident just after it had happened.

Ms Steele now wanted to tell the world once again that she had lied to help her friend. If Ms Willey had invented the incident, then the viewers, with Ms Lewinsky fresh in their minds, should conclude the likelihood was that Ms Lewinsky was also the victim of a vivid imagination.

Throughout the Lewinsky saga, the White House had been careful not to be seen to discredit her, but several of the women associated with Mr Clinton's past have complained of attempts to destroy them. John Dean alluded to them in his warning. He also warned of the length of political memories in Washington.

To minimise the damage, he advised, Ms Lewinsky should defend her reputation as strenuously as possible.

"The only way to stop them is to go after them. Otherwise they will try to devour you. I know."



President Bill Clinton talking with an adviser yesterday before leaving for a fund-raising trip

Clinton cuts trip short

BESET BY crises abroad and at home, President Bill Clinton decided yesterday to cut short a "meet-the-people" and fund-raising trip across the United States, making known that he was unhappy about being out of Washington for three days.

The trip, which began yesterday in Louisville, Kentucky, had been planned to take in loyal Democratic constituencies also in Chicago, California and Milwaukee, but is now due to end today in San Francisco. Mr Clinton will be flying back overnight, returning home in time for a series of foreign-policy meetings connected with the bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

The presidential trip cross-country, finalised only last week as Monica Lewinsky testified to the grand jury about her relationship with Mr Clinton, had a dual purpose.

First, it would be raising funds for Democratic candidates in the coming mid-term congressional and state elections, and, secondly, it would project images of the President

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Louisville, Kentucky

without the usual backdrop of scandal-ridden Washington and the media probing he faces daily in the capital.

Yesterday, though, at the start of a trip where arrangements altered from hour to hour, Mr Clinton apparently decided that a trip heavily weighted in favour of \$1,000-a-plate meals could appear callous in the wake of the bombings in Africa. The trip was cut almost in half.

"The President felt it was important to come back," said a White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart. "He was not really comfortable being out three days."

Mr Clinton opened his trip in Kentucky with a moment of silence for the 12 Americans and 200 Africans killed in the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

"We must be strong in dealing with this," he said. "There is no way out if we start running away from this kind of conduct."

Children charged with girl's murder

TWO BOYS aged seven and eight have been charged with the murder of an 11-year-old girl in a crime that has shocked Chicago.

They are alleged to have killed Ryan Harris because they wanted her bicycle. Her body was found last month on waste ground with pieces of clothing and vegetation stuffed into her mouth. She had been badly beaten with a brick and sexually assaulted. Ryan had last been seen riding on the bicycle which she had borrowed from a friend.

Initially, police questioned children the same age as the victim, but that led them to interrogate younger children. Both boys have implicated themselves in statements that they made to police, the authorities said.

Many in Chicago cannot believe that children so young could possibly have carried out

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

the crime. They say that the girl's injuries could only have been inflicted by someone much older. Police are adamant that they believe they have the right people, and they say that the younger boy initiated the attack.

Though the children would be the youngest ever charged with murder, two years ago two boys aged 12 and 13 were jailed for dropping a five-year old boy from the 14th floor of an tower block, and were sent to youth prison.

Two Arkansas boys who opened fire on their classmates and a teacher will appear before a judge today. Mitchell Johnson, 13, and Andrew Golden, 12, killed teacher Shannon Wright, and four other children. They are expected to be sentenced to imprisonment until they are 18, the maximum sentence available.

Toledo lures investors to let the good times roll

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Toledo, Ohio

EVER SINCE John Denver sang "Saturday night in Toledo, Ohio is like being no place at all", this industrial Midwestern city has been struggling to put some shine into its relentlessly drab, blue-collar image.

In the 1970s and the 1980s, when oil crisis and recession dealt swingeing blows to the local economy, particularly the car industry, Toledo almost fell off the map altogether. Tens of thousands of workers were laid off, a quarter of the population fled, and downtown turned into a wasteland of cracked asphalt, boarded-up buildings and vacant lots.

Times are different now. The economy is booming and jobs are plentiful. The suburbs are sprouting offshoots, and life is even crawling back into the derelict centre of town. But despite the city's best efforts to promote itself as a haven of prosperity, the sense of malaise has not entirely disappeared. As the recent General Motors strike illustrated - a labour relations dispute that brought a handful of cities to a standstill for almost two months - much of the Midwest is at the mercy of vast industrial conglomerates whose fluctuating fortunes and fluid investment priorities can bring either euphoria or devastation to local communities.

Like every other Midwestern city, Toledo can only guarantee its wellbeing by bending over backwards to accommodate the demands of the corporations. When Chrysler announced a couple of years ago that it was closing its Jeep assembly plant in northern Toledo and looking for a site to build a new one, the city authorities flew into a panic at the thought that the mainstay of the local economy might move to the suburbs or worse still, over the state line into Michigan.

The upshot is that Jeep is



Toledo's prosperity was hitched to the Chrysler Jeep

staying, but at a cost to Toledo that has made many people here blanch. Not only is the city offering tax breaks galore for the next 10 years, it has also volunteered to buy up 83 houses next to the Jeep plant and donate the land to Chrysler to facilitate its expansion.

In all, Toledo will spend more than \$250m (£152m) to keep Jeep - and that for a scheme that will not provide a single extra job, but will in fact result in job losses. The new Chrysler plant will employ 4,700, compared with 5,500 now working at the old one.

In a city that does not exactly abound in municipal funds, that means eating up several years' worth of federal development funds and blowing a debt hole in the local budget incurring more than \$3m in repayments each year.

"We have to look at what Toledo is going to lose," said Tobi Saad Bartels, a community development worker and researcher at the local university. "There will be no money for infrastructure improvements. Water rates will go up. The city will have to sell off agricultural land. Schools will suffer. And social programmes are sure to

be cut."

As far as Toledo's ebullient mayor, Carty Finkbeiner, is concerned, such worries are little more than minor details. "We're putting up \$250m or \$300m to secure a \$1.2bn investment by Chrysler. It's a win-win-win-win situation."

As long as the boom continues, and Toledo's other key manufacturers - of car parts and glass - continue to keep the city's head held high, that assessment may be true. Nobody believes Jeep should have been chased away. But if the economy should go into one of its periodic downturns, Mr Finkbeiner's detractors fear the city might be lumbered with more debt than it can handle.

"Toledo is caught between a rock and a hard place," said Neil Reid, an automotive specialist at the University of Toledo. "Companies in the Midwest are very good at playing one community off against another to secure the best deal. Jeep probably would have stayed in Toledo anyway, but the city could not risk being beaten by a better offer."

Although Toledo has notched up some notable pub-

lic relations triumphs, being named an All-American City earlier this year and clinching an International Sister Cities conference in 2002, it has a long way to go to improve the sad, grey feel of its semi-derelict smokestack skyline. There is a sense of desperation in the city's planning decisions, that it would rather secure investment first, and ask questions about the desirability of new developments later. Thus a downtown block built in the 1920s, including the old Pantheon Theater, risks being knocked down and turned into a multi-storey car park. A famous battle site and a Native American burial ground at Fallen Timbers is in danger of being converted into a shopping mall.

In a region whose recent economic performance vies with Germany's, such decisions seem unnecessarily harsh and point to the fragility of the Midwest's success story. Money and real estate are the priority. Urban renewal is an elusive and more distant goal. Toledo may be on the road to recovery, but those Saturday nights of John Denver's are still far from glittering affairs.

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An uneasy crown passes to prince

THE SULTAN of Brunei yesterday invested his eldest son as his successor in a glittering ceremony that was intended to underline the stability of the oil-rich but troubled monarchy.

Amid the boom of cannon and before a crowd of about 4,000 spectators gathered in the grounds of the royal palace, 24-year-old Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah, dressed in gold tunic and crown, received an ancient sword in a golden sheath from his father before kissing his hand.

The ceremony lasted an hour-and-a-quarter and ended with the prince climbing into a chariot and being drawn through flag-waving crowds in the streets of the capital.

The spectacle illustrated the determination of the sultan, now 52, to ensure that his dynasty continues amid troubles caused by Asia's economic crisis, which have dented the

By MARCUS TANNER

enormous fortunes of the sultanate and exposed rifts between the sultan and his younger brother, Prince Jefri.

The prince was removed recently from influence in the Brunei Investment Agency, the body which handles the sultanate's vast overseas investments, after the Amedeo conglomerate he controlled was reported to have run up billions of dollars of debts.

Last week, the prince, whose playboy lifestyle has attracted both amused and hostile attention, accused religious conservatives of tightening their grip over the kingdom's affairs.

The prince yesterday congratulated his nephew on his proclamation ceremony from exile in the US, adding that "disturbing events" in Brunei made it impossible for him to attend the event in person.

The citizens of Brunei are unlikely to experience a momentous change of course if and when the crown prince finally ascends the throne.

The royal family are conventionally pious Muslims and the prince himself has accompanied his family on pilgrimage to Mecca.

But the family also maintain strong ties to the West, and to Britain in particular.

The Crown Prince attended Oxford and, like his fallen uncle, is a keen sportsman and snooker player. Next month he will confirm the royal family's continuing attachment to Britain when, along with his father, he welcomes the Queen on her forthcoming visit to the sultanate.

The potential challenge to the prince is more likely to come from social discontent than from Islamic militants. Since the result of the elec-

tions held after independence from Britain in 1982 was annulled, the sultanate's 300,000 citizens have exchanged their political freedoms for a lavishly provided welfare state.

As time runs out for the oil and gas reserves that have sustained this expense, the question is whether such a delicate arrangement can survive the present sultan. Some estimate that Brunei's oil reserves will start to run out within 20 years. Even the one-time party that is allowed to operate in Brunei admits there is pressure for change.

The president of the Brunei Solidarity National Party (PPKB), Mohammed Hatta, told reporters at the ceremony that he hoped the crown prince would usher in reforms. "He will bring liberal changes towards a democratic society in line with the aspirations of the people," he said.



Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah, 24, adjusts his crown during a procession after yesterday's ceremony. AFP

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Kosovo's rebellion 'still alive'

IN THE hills outside Banja, a village 30 miles south-west of the regional capital of Pristina, a bearded officer of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in camouflage fatigues and cradling a Kalashnikov grimly considers his future after a crushing Serb offensive that has seized most of the territory the rebels held only two weeks ago.

Was the KLA demoralised and beaten by the Serb-led Yugoslav army? "Nous sommes plus forts," he answered in French. "We are stronger".

The boast seemed like empty bravado. Stunning battlefield setbacks suggest the KLA is in a desperately weakened position compared to a few weeks ago, when the rebels controlled up to 40 per cent of Kosovo and most of the major roads, such as the strategically vital Pristina-Pec highway.

Today undisputed KLA strongholds are restricted to the village of Junik, on the western border with Albania, and a tenuous pocket in the central Drenica region, around the village of Prekaz.

In Prekaz, reeling from their defeats, rebel fighters shuffled in the hot sun, nervously awaiting oblivion as smoke rose from the recently overrun village of Lausa, to the west.

One weary soldier had escaped from Lausa only days before. He described the "bombardments", probably mortar fire, and the tank attacks and the torching of houses which form part of the "scorched earth" strategy that the Serbs are employing in the wake of their advances.

On the map, the KLA is losing badly. But KLA assurances that they are stronger than ever underscores two important factors.

With nowhere to retreat to, the bulk of the KLA will be determinedly fight on. Secondly, as a guerrilla force, the KLA's strength is not always to be measured by the amount of territory they hold.

"I personally believe the KLA will not be destroyed," said one member of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), the Albanian political party, based in Pristina. "We have no place to go. We have to protect ourselves. You have to remember the KLA are not soldiers. They are people who are protecting their houses."

As a home guard, rather than a conventional army, much of the KLA is an almost invisible force. Its men are farmers by day and fighters (if necessary) by night. The casualty figures do not necessarily suggest a decimated rebel force.

According to some estimates, only about 50 KLA fighters have died in recent fighting, out of a total rebel force numbering thousands before the recent Yugoslav army offensive. The KLA is losing territory more than men. On road between Komorane

By JOHN NADLER
in Banja, Kosovo

and Srbica, about 18 miles west of Pristina, Yugoslav police are ensconced in heavily fortified checkpoints. They ostensibly control the highway. But on Saturday a rebel van bearing KLA number plates slowly cruised past the police road blocks. Young men, probably uniformed KLA fighters, loitered along the road and waved casually at our passing car.

Although the Serb police patrol the burned-out town of Malisevo, south-west of Pristina, over the weekend a uniformed KLA soldier in full battle gear was to be seen reclining in a chair outside a coffee shop in a village only a few miles away. Surrounded by children and other men, calmly smoking and drinking soft drinks, the fighter acted like a lazy tourist rather than a soldier in the midst of a war.

The KLA's message is that the Serbs may control the checkpoints, but the rebels still rule the territory in between.



If Yugoslav forces do overrun the villages of Junik and Prekaz, one likely scenario is that full-time fighters will retreat into Albania, Macedonia and the Kosovo hills, from where they will continue the fight. The other members of the KLA will take off their yellow badges and disappear again into the general population, ready to take up arms when the time comes.

Like the Viet Cong, the KLA threatens to become an invisible enemy that the Yugoslav army and police can never quite eradicate.

The only hope of peace for the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, is to convince the secessionists of the KLA to accept a return to the regional autonomy from Serbia which Kosovo enjoyed before Mr Milosevic scrapped it in 1989. But today, as former KLA villages burn, this is an offer the rebels are unlikely to accept.

"The KLA has not died over the last 80 years," explained the LDK representative, harking back to Serbia's annexation of Kosovo just before the First World War. "I don't believe they will die now."

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24/11/2015

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BRIEFING

Halifax links with McDonald's

HALIFAX HAS teamed up with fast-food chain McDonald's and the technology group NCR corporation to provide food and banking services under one roof. The partnership will see Halifax install its automated teller machines supplied by NCR at selected drive-through McDonald's restaurants around the UK. Halifax also said it was negotiating to put in more "off-site" ATMs around the country. It already has ATMs in several McDonald's car parks around the country. Separately, Halifax said it yesterday continued its buyback programme, announcing that it had purchased from Merrill Lynch for cancellation 595,000 of its ordinary shares at a 712.75p each.

Cammell in acquisition talks

CAMMELL LAIRD
share price, pence

ASONDJFMAMJJJA

SHARPS IN Cammell Laird, the former Birkhead shipbuilder refloated last year as a specialist ship repairer at 114p a share, rose 35p to a peak of 550p after the company slipped out of a statement late in the day saying it is in talks to make a "substantial" acquisition in the UK which it hopes to announce next week. Best bet is an acquisition which will help expand capacity to convert ships for oil exploration work in the Scottish offshore waters, and service North Sea rigs.

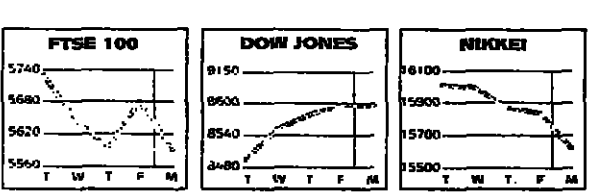
Inflation outlook still good

THE INFLATION outlook in UK manufacturing remains benign, according to official figures released yesterday. In July, producer output prices fell by 0.1 per cent month-on-month, and were up by just 0.8 per cent year-on-year, roughly in line with expectations. Producer input prices fell by slightly more than expected, down 0.3 per cent month-on-month, and down 8.9 per cent year-on-year.

Leeds chief steps down

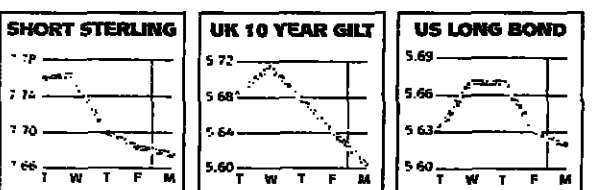
LEEDS SPORTING, the company that owns Leeds United FC, yesterday confirmed that Chris Akers will step down as chief executive in September. However, Mr Akers denied reports that he was the victim of a boardroom coup, pointing out that he was not receiving a payoff and was being retained on a consultancy basis by Leeds for a year after stepping down.

STOCK MARKETS



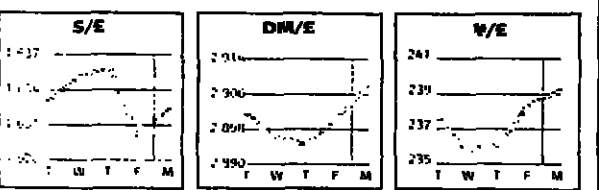
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	YTD (%)
FTSE 100	5587.60	-22.80	-1.63	6183.70	4382.80	3.86
FTSE 250	5304.70	-18.30	-0.34	5970.90	4428.30	3.77
FTSE 350	3699.90	-38.20	-1.03	3968.10	2141.80	3.84
FTSE All Share	2629.13	-35.55	-1.34	2886.52	2106.89	3.82
FTSE SmallCap	2405.60	-7.50	-0.31	2793.80	2206.30	3.90
FTSE Fledgling	1315.40	-5.10	-0.39	1517.10	1225.20	3.64
FTSE AIM	1038.50	-5.40	-0.52	1148.90	985.90	1.30
FTSE ERLC 100	1004.11	-21.73	-2.12			
Dow Jones	8594.67	-1.55	-0.02	9367.84	6971.32	1.71
Nikkei	15626.42	-202.75	-1.28	19466.35	14488.21	0.98
Hang Seng	7034.62	-16.21	-0.23	16650.75	7000.00	5.90
Dax	5476.25	-104.97	-1.88	6217.83	3487.24	2.93

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Yr. Chg.
UK	7.70	6.51	7.69	6.23	5.60	-1.49
US	5.69	-0.03	5.75	-0.31	5.40	-0.96
Japan	0.65	0.06	0.66	-0.05	1.46	-0.89
Germany	3.51	0.26	3.79	0.26	4.53	-1.18

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Yr. Chg.
Dollar	1.6325	+0.030	1.5902	0.6126	-0.11p	0.6289
D-Mark	2.9078	+0.002	2.9530	1.7809	+0.19p	1.8556
Yen	239.19	+0.88	185.01	146.43	+0.19p	116.14
£/DM	103.90	0.00	101.30	5.10	0.00	105.90

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg.	Yr. Ago	Index	Close	Chg.	Yr. Ago
Brow. Ind. (SI)	11.80	-0.11	18.28	GDP (115.40)	2.60	112.48	Sept.
Gold (SI)	285.45	-1.40	327.15	RPI	163.40	3.70	157.57
Silver (SI)	5.29	-0.12	4.38	Base Rates	7.50	7.00	

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6198	Malaysia (ringgit)	6.5032
Austria (schilling)	19.74	Malta (lira)	0.6149
Belgium (franc)	58.01	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.31
Canada (\$)	2.6114	Netherlands (guilder)	3.1675
Cyprus (pound)	0.8241	New Zealand (\$)	3.0724
Denmark (krone)	10.78	Norway (krone)	12.05
Finland (markka)	8.5979	Portugal (escudo)	284.98
France (franc)	9.4285	Saudi Arabia (riyal)	9.2559
Germany (mark)	2.8218	Singapore (\$)	2.6941
Greece (drachma)	465.19	South Africa (rand)	9.8521
Hong Kong (\$)	12.21	Sweden (krone)	12.79
Ireland (punt)	1.1152	Switzerland (franc)	2.3720
India (rupee)	63.79	Thailand (baht)	61.05
Israel (shekel)	5.5814	Turkey (lira)	425337
Italy (lira)	2786	USA (\$)	1.5886
Japan (yen)	233.77		

Rates for indication purposes only

BUSINESS

Prudential hit by new pension selling crisis

SIR PETER DAVIS, the chief executive at Prudential, was yesterday preparing to abandon his holiday to take personal charge of an internal inquiry into fresh allegations that salespeople at the UK's largest insurer are still mis-selling personal pensions.

The latest allegation is that so-called "mystery shoppers" with irregular incomes were advised by Prudential sales staff to take out high-commission but expensive pensions with monthly premiums.

Sir Peter's awaited return came as the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the financial services regulator, said it too would conduct its own investigation into the claims. If they are found to be true, the Prudential could face a multi-million pound fine, the first since it first admitted earlier mis-selling problems.

Sir Peter's sudden return to London from a brief holiday in Wales was presented yesterday

BY NIC CIGUTTI

as a sign of the urgency attached by the embattled insurer to bringing an end to the scandals that have continued to dog the Pru in recent years. Shares in the company dropped 25 pence to 807p, partly in response to the new claims.

A Prudential spokesman said: "Sir Peter is taking these claims very seriously and is prepared to scrap his holiday. He has asked to be kept fully informed of developments of our own internal investigation and for any information to be passed to him as quickly as possible."

Prudential's latest crisis comes barely a month after Sir Peter was attacked by a parliamentary committee, one of whose members accused his company of "cheating your customers". This followed an announcement that the insurer was setting aside £1.1bn to

compensate victims of the previous mis-selling scandal.

Last year Prudential was heavily criticised by the Securities and Investments Board, the leading City regulator, over mis-selling of financial products and poor monitoring of its sales force.

At the time, the company said it would reassess all its sales staff to identify any areas where it felt further training was needed. It also acted to strengthen its internal compliance team, checking all proposed sales rather than doing so at random, as had previously been the case. In the past year, the number of compliance staff at Prudential has doubled to several hundred, although the company was unwilling to give exact numbers.

Martin Brownstein, compliance director at Prudential, said yesterday that he was still waiting to receive exact details of which staff had been in-



Sir Peter Davis: sudden return to London planned

involved in the mis-selling allegations. But he was confident that even if the claims proved to be true the mis-sold policies would have been spotted.

He added that the Pru was moving to end its commission-based system of paying staff towards one in which they are

rewarded more for long-term relationship with their clients.

However, PIA sources said yesterday that the regulator would look closely at any compliance departments which were stopping large numbers of bad sales. "If there is pressure on compliance departments to pick up the sales force, there should be a message going back that there is something going wrong," a regulator said.

Meanwhile, a Metropolitan Police source confirmed yesterday that an investigation into allegations of attempted pensions mis-selling against three different high-street insurance giants is expected to be broadened to include other companies within a few weeks.

The Independent revealed last week that Legal & General, Sun Life of Canada and Guardian Royal Exchange were being investigated after allegations of attempted mis-selling.

Crane maker closure axes 670 jobs

BY TERRY MACALISTER

BRITAIN'S manufacturing sector received another bitter blow yesterday with US crane maker, Grove Worldwide, announcing plans to shut its Sunderland plant and axe 670 jobs.

Further pain is anticipated today with industrial giant BOC, expected to announce plans to take redundant 1,000 UK employees.

The decision by Grove was described by union officials as a "devastating blow" to the north east of England, they said it would have a worrying impact on other businesses.

The latest round of cuts are being blamed on the twi impact of the Asian crisis coupled with a sky-high pound which has battered British exports.

The Bank of England's decision last week to raise interest rates brought a sigh of relief from, but to relieve for industry.

These problems from renewed questions about the wisdom of attracting too much inward investment from abroad. Car-maker Rover, owned by BMW, last month said it would be forced to make 1,500 employees redundant, blaming the strong pound.

German electronics giant, Siemens, blamed the Asian crisis for its recent decision to close its Tyneside plant with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

The closure of the Grove operation during November and December follows six years of severe financial losses. Grove was bought earlier this year from the former conglomerate, Fanson, by Keystone of the US for US\$660m (£373m). Grove Worldwide, with headquarters in Pennsylvania, also has manufacturing plants in US, Germany and France.

The vast majority of Groves UK output is exported, but the company has struggled to remain competitive.

A spokesman for the GMT union blamed the high value of the pound and the continuing high level of interest rates.

The same arguments are likely to be employed today by BOC which is expected to announce that 3,840 jobs (10 per cent of its workforce) will be cut.

BOC interim profits slumped by 17% as demand fell away for its vacuum technology business which supplies the semiconductor business. BT Alex Brown the BOC boss broker, has forecast the BOC restructuring will lead to a £130m charge and other analysts have downgraded the 1998 forecasts.

BA slumps on Brussels warning

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

BRITISH AIRWAYS took a severe buffeting yesterday as the airline warned of deteriorating economic conditions and Brussels insisted that it would not allow BA to sell "way" tickets to gain approval for its alliance with American Airlines.

The double dose of bad news provoked a 25 per cent fall in BA shares. They closed the day 24p lower at 557p despite first quarter profits towards the top end of expectations and an overwhelming response to BA's summer sale of 2 million cut-price tickets.

Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, warned that it would be "unacceptable" for BA to sell the 267 slots at Heathrow and Gatwick that it has been ordered to surrender. The Commissioner added that it would be in breach of EU Council regulations and would disadvantage smaller carriers trying to break into the transatlantic market.

Last week the Office of Fair Trading urged the new Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, to override Brussels and authorise BA to sell the slots, which are worth an estimated £500m.

The stand-off between the two competition authorities threatens to turn into a full-scale row between London and Brussels. However, Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, described the OFT's ruling as "highly significant".



BA sales person Stephanie Dyer helped handle the rush to book the airline's 2 million cut-price tickets

He was speaking as BA reported a 25 per cent increase in operating profits to £173m for the three months to the end of June. Pre-tax profits came in at £145m against £220m the previous year when BA had a one-off gain of £130m from the sale of its stake in US Airways.

Despite the underlying improvement, the markets were spooked by a 4 per cent fall in yields - the profit per kilometre

per passenger - and a warning from BA of economic downturn in UK and Far East markets.

The airline was also hit by the strong pound, which wiped more than £20m off profits in the quarter and could lower full-year profits by £80m-£100m.

Mr Ayling said that the damage to profits would have been greater had it not been for the airline's Business Efficiency Plan, which is scheduled to

produce savings of £500m this year against £250m last year.

He added that the ticket sale, featuring savings of up to two-thirds on the standard air fares to 80 mainly European destinations, had been a huge success. BA's reservations hotline took 70,000 calls over the weekend and long queues formed at BA's travel shops and at travel agents.

BA has been accused of targeting routes where it faces competition from rival low-cost airlines. But Mr Ayling said this was "unfounded and without justification" as only 12 of the 80 routes selected were in this category.

He said BA was still negotiating with both Boeing and Airbus over an order potentially worth £3bn for new narrow-bodied jet aircraft to operate on its regional European routes.

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Goldman Sachs votes to float

BY LEA PATERSON

PARTNERS AT Goldman Sachs, one of the oldest and most successful investment banking partnerships on Wall Street, yesterday voted overwhelmingly to go public.

The 190 partners gave the go-ahead to the \$25bn (£15bn) autumn float, which will result in multi-million pound payouts for all Goldman partners.

The partners discussed details of Goldman's initial public offering (IPO) in a video-conference link yesterday before voting on the flotation proposals.

The vote was described by Goldman insiders as simply "a rubber-stamping exercise".

Plotation of the firm has been described as "almost inevitable" after Goldman's six-strong executive committee endorsed plans to sell 10-15 per cent of the bank back in June.

Since then, a team of in-house experts has been hammering out details of the flotation, which were explained to the partners yesterday.

The partners are believed to have discussed the size of their windfalls, the terms under which they will be able to cash in their shares and the distribution of equity to other Goldman's employees.

The firm is unlikely to disclose details of the plans until it files with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) later this month. However, partners are expected to receive an average payout of \$80m, with the more senior partners receiving windfalls of more than \$100m.

Partners are unlikely to be able to cash in their shares straight away - possibly for as long as five years - and all 11,000 of the bank's employees will receive some type of equity stake.

Goldman's 200 managing directors - the so-called "marzipan layer" who occupy the rung below partnership - are expected to be awarded multi-million pound payouts in an attempt to compensate them for losing the chance to attain coveted partnership status.

City sources have estimated the "marzipan layer" payouts at \$10m-£15m.

So-called "limited" partners who have retired from the bank have already been told details of their payouts. They are expected to be awarded premiums of 25-55 per cent over their investment in the firm, depending on the precise combination of shares, debt and cash they choose.

Scott to step down at Saatchi & Saatchi

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

CHARLIE SCOTT, the advertising executive who ejected Maurice and Charles Saatchi from the company they founded, yesterday announced plans for his own departure.

Mr Scott is to give up his role as chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi at the end of the year. He will be succeeded by Bob Seelert, the advertising group's current chief executive.

Mr Scott will continue in his role as chairman of Cordiant Communications Group, the company from which Saatchi & Saatchi was spun off last year.

"It's a natural evolution for the company," said Mr Seelert, who is taking a part-time role.

The Saatchis were forced to leave Saatchi & Saatchi as the entire company was then allied - after instituting shareholders balked at their pay packages. They set up a new agency called M&C Saatchi and joined Saatchi & Saatchi to pay for continuing to use their names.

Kevin Roberts, chief executive of the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising business, will become chief executive of the group. Finance director Bill Cochrane is promoted to be board as chief financial officer.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

SHARES struggled in another low-volume session. At one time down 124.5 points, Footsie closed off 92.8 at 5,587.8. Uncertainty about New York and another downturn in Tokyo did most of the damage.

Blue chips which went ex-dividend accounted for around 12 points of the fall. Longer-dated government stocks improved as investors moved into bonds.

National Power, on talk of a £7bn bid, rose 16p to 539p. PowerGen, seeking US deals, rose 12p to 780p.

Derek Paine, page 19

NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES index was up 29 points at 8627 by early afternoon but blue chip stocks were below their best and fellers outnumbered gainers by two to one. Sentiment was dented by worries that the Asian crisis, which has reduced the profits of US companies, would last longer than expected. Some analysts feared a fresh round of devaluations in Asian currencies, starting with the Chinese yuan. Last Friday's policy statement by the new Japanese Prime Minister also failed to help sentiment.

TOKYO

TOKYO STOCKS finished moderately lower as the market became jittery over what it sees as Japan's slowness in fixing its banking system, traders said. Bank shares came under pressure as worries mounted that the yen's decline against the dollar could trigger a further sell-off in other Asian currencies and stocks. News that the unlisted Japanese copier maker Mita Industrial had filed for court protection from creditors under bankruptcy laws also hurt sentiment, traders said. The key Nikkei average lost 1.28 per cent, to close at 15,626.42.

GERMANY

GERMAN SHARES closed lower on continuing uncertainty over Asia and Wall Street, with the DAX dipping below the psychological support level of 5,500 late in the afternoon, dealers said.

The Xetra DAX closed at a low of 5,460.43, down 137.89 while the DAX closed today's floor session down 104.97 at 5,476.25. Dealers said trading was dominated by Asia-related worries, notably the prospect of a devaluation of the yuan and the lack of a clear lead on tax reform in Japan.

CANADA

CANADIAN stocks continued a downward plunge in afternoon trading, dragged lower by steep drops in banking and resource stocks chilled the market. The Toronto Stock Exchange's 300 composite index was 72.6 pnts, or over 1 per cent, lower at 8583.5. The Canadian dollar steadied around C\$1.5233 on the back of a massive intervention by the central bank on Friday. It has recently slumped to an all-time low against the \$ dollar, hit by falling commodity prices in the wake of the Asian crisis.

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Devaney lights up National Power

IF YOU are contemplating a £7bn break-up bid for National Power, then where better to contemplate it than in the middle of the Mediterranean? John Devaney can currently be found, *en famille*, just off the north-west coast of Corsica, birthplace of Napoleon. He has dropped anchor close to Calvi but still has plenty of time to check the satellite fax in between taking the dinghy into town for the bread run.



OUTLOOK

Contemplating a bid, of course, is one thing. Executing it is quite another. Before he does anything else, Mr Devaney intends to enjoy the rest of his three-week holiday - down to Sardinia and then back around the islands to Cap Ferrat. It's a hard life.

Then he has to decide whether he is going to quit his present job with the Energy Group, where he is chairman of Eastern Electricity. The Texans who now own Energy Group are, by all accounts, keen to keep him.

Then he has to decide whether he has the stomach for a bruising assault on a business which enjoys the added protection of a Government golden share. Then he has to raise the money. If those banks who have been whispering in his ear

think £7bn will be enough then they are supreme optimists.

All in all, it is easy to see why beachcombing in the Med might have more appeal.

Nomura has been touted as a possible backer for the bid. But Guy Hands who runs its principal finance group, has been frightened off the sector once - when the bid target incidentally was Energy Group.

True, National Power may not be flavour of the month with either ministers or regulators. But the prospect of a Japanese bank mortgaging off its power stations in order to make a quick buck for a handful of fancy City banks, scarcely looks like a more appealing proposition.

There is a more substantive reason why a bid right now would look like the product of dozing too long in the sun. Nobody, including Mr Devaney, has the faintest idea what they would be buying. The industry watchdog, Stephen Littlechild, has got his teeth deep into National Power's rump and is convinced that the only way to open up the electricity market is to slice the two big fossil-fuel generators in half.

Mr Devaney's fall-back position is to create a vehicle to acquire some of that generating capacity, either from Nat Power or PowerGen. That still looks a better bet.

It would be surprising if Mr Devaney rates the chances of pulling off a hostile bid at much above 5 per cent. Food for thought as he laps up the Corsican scenery. With those sort of odds he could be starting at his own personal Waterloo.

Pension off commission man

PETER DAVIS, the man from the Pru, does not have quite as far to come back from holiday to clean up the latest mess at Britain's biggest

pension provider. A quick hop up the M4 from Wales should do it.

If there is any consolation for the Pru it is that almost any day of the week dozens, possibly hundreds, of people will be mis-sold a personal pension by one company's sales force or another.

Thankfully, the scale of the problem is nothing like that of the early 1990s, when the figures ran into thousands each day over a period of several years. But the fact remains that no matter what the UK's insurers say, or their loudly-proclaimed regret at past excesses, their salesforces will continue to give the lie to claims that the industry has sorted out the mis-selling scandal once and for all.

Part of the industry's answer to mis-selling has been to beef up back-office compliance teams so that poor advice can be weeded out and money returned to customers before an inappropriate pension plan can turn into a millstone around the neck.

But this sort of back-stop arrangement is not calculated to reassure customers. Nor can it be 100 per cent effective, as the Pru attempted to suggest yesterday.

In the first instance, the real

problem concerns how insurance salespeople are recruited, trained and paid.

It is now beyond any doubt that if you take a group of people relatively unversed in financial matters, give them one or two weeks' training and then let them loose on customers, you risk the possibility of mis-selling. All the more so if the way that salesforce is paid is by commission.

The only way to significantly reduce future financial scandals is alter the nature of recruitment, insisting on higher pre-entry qualifications for all new staff. Their training - and the exams they are required to pass, should be far longer and tougher.

Finally, sales commissions must be scrapped and replaced with a proper remuneration system that does away with the compulsive need to sell yet another policy, no matter how inappropriate, in order to round up that salesperson's monthly income.

Nor is it enough for the Pru to substitute commission with rewards for the "long-term relationship" a salesman has with his customers. As past experience shows, you can mis-sell for years

and still be thought of highly by clients who are marginally more ignorant than you.

Today it was hapless Prudential's turn. Unless changes to the way the entire industry works, tomorrow it could be almost any other insurer coming under the spotlight. Their customers, all of us in fact, deserve better than this.

Managers may be best judges

ANOTHER DAY, another batch of gloomy economic surveys. Yesterday, it was the turn of UK fund managers and the retailers to turn into Jeremiahs over the state of the UK economy.

Fund managers cannot afford to be too snuffy about the equity markets for the simple reason that so much of their portfolios are held in shares. But if Merrill Lynch's latest snapshot is right, then more and more of them have turned into sellers of UK equities. Just 3 per cent think the economy will improve over the coming year, while earnings per share are expected to grow by a measly 5 per cent in 1998 and 1999.

Meanwhile, the retailers reported another bad month for High Street sales. Like-for-like sales were up just 1.5 per cent on the year, better than June's 0.1 per cent fall, but still not great.

Dig a little deeper, however, and the picture doesn't look quite as bleak. Buried away in the Merrill Lynch survey is the interesting fact that although fund managers may not like UK equities, company directors are buyers of their own shares. Historically, there has been a close correlation between the direction of the market and directors' dealings.

Put simply, the managers of our companies have proved better judges than their owners of the state of the stock market. So yes, it is of concern that so many fund managers are switching out of UK equities, and yes, it is of concern that so many have been downgrading their profit forecasts.

The net effect yesterday was to drive the market another 90 points lower. But August can be odd month for markets, when the trading is thin and the professionals are on holiday. A better test will come when the August sunshine is replaced by Autumn's first bite.

Hostile £255m bid for Dennis

News Analysis: Mayflower crumps previous agreed offer for the Guildford bus and fire-engine maker

MAYFLOWER, the acquisitive car and bus parts-maker, yesterday launched a £255m hostile bid for Dennis, one of Britain's leading bus makers, triggering a bitter takeover war with rival Henlys.

Mayflower's offer, which was first mooted last week, trumped a previously agreed all-share merger between Dennis, and Henlys, which values the former at around £210m at yesterday's closing share price.

Swedish industrial giant Volvo also entered the fray yesterday, announcing it intends to buy a 10 per cent stake in Henlys, in a move which was seen as a vote of confidence in the Henlys bid. Volvo's move also increases the chances that Henlys may raise its bid, as City analysts speculated that the Swedish company could help finance an increased offer.

Industry experts agree that a bout of takeover activity among bus-makers was long overdue and is a natural consequence of the changes in the UK and global bus industry. They believe bus builders have been forced to look for alliances by the twin needs of facing up to the power of the bus operating giants in UK and of acquiring the right critical mass to expand overseas.

Last night the Henlys board said it was still "actively reviewing its position" but in response in due course "but in the interim said the bus-maker was looking at increasing the value of the share offer or at changing its nature and going for a cash bid. The Dennis board, which had recommended the original Henlys merger, said it was still waiting for "clarification" from Henlys and advised its shareholders to take no action until Henlys' intentions become clearer.

The events left Henlys share price, boosted by Volvo's interest, 38.5p higher at 577.5p, with Dennis up 13p to 469p and Mayflower, hit by the prospect of a protracted bidding war, down 10.5p to 184.5p.

But aside from the financial details, which still favour Mayflower, the strategic arguments of the two contenders

are very similar. In the Mayflower camp, John Simpson, the chief executive, argues that Dennis "fits like a glove" with Walter Alexander, Mayflower's bus-making unit. The business makes bus frames, which could be "inserted" on to Dennis chassis, offering bus operators a "one-stop shop" for all their bus needs.

This would cut production costs and would benefit operators as it avoids the costly and time-consuming process of mixing and matching bodies and chassis, the Mayflower chief executive believes. Walter Alexander and Dennis - which in 1997/98 had sales of £288.5m and profits of £19.5m - have already co-operated on a range of low-floor double decker buses, which have been sold to major bus operators. On the international side, Mr Simpson, the man behind last year's aborted bid by Mayflower for its much bigger rival Vickers, stressed how the two businesses could build on their strengths in the US and Asian markets, by once again, offering customers an integrated body-chassis service.

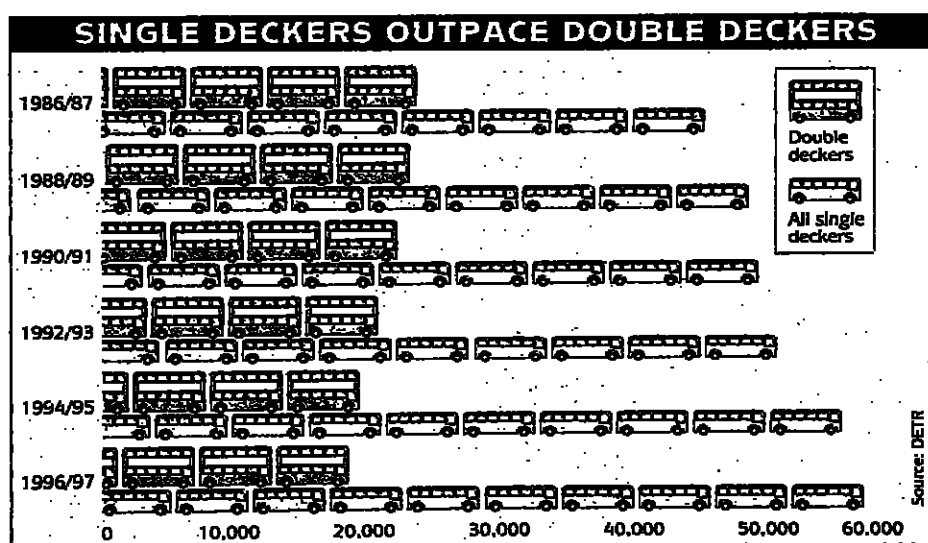
But most of the arguments used by Mayflower are echoed among Henlys supporters. Experts point out that Henlys is the UK leader in bus-bodies and vertical integration with Dennis chassis activities would enhance its domination of the UK market and achieve some cost-savings. On the international front, Robert Wood, Henlys chief executive, said yesterday Volvo's involvement would give the merged group access to a large distribution network in some 60 countries around the globe. He raised the prospects of exclusive agreements and joint ventures with Volvo which would give the new entity a considerable presence on the international stage.

Whatever the outcome, the outbreak of a bidding war in the once-sleepy bus-building sector is set to have far-reaching implications.

On the domestic front, the deregulation of the transport market, carried out by the Con-



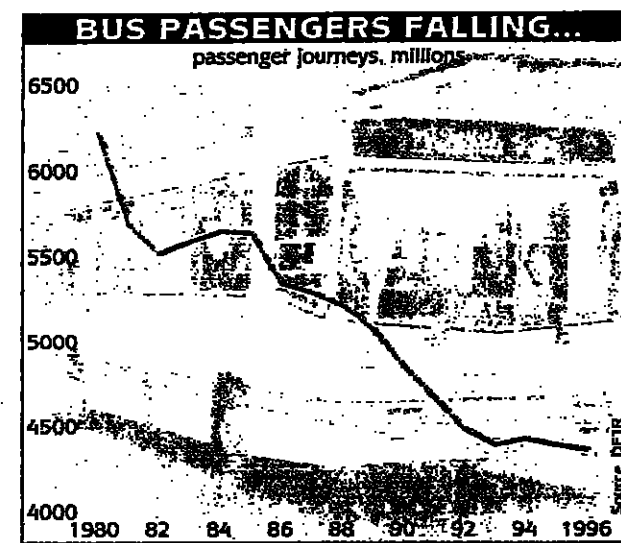
John Simpson, chief executive of Mayflower Corporation, says Dennis "fits like a glove" with its Walter Alexander bus-making unit



servatives between 1980 and 1985, has encouraged consolidation among bus operators. As a result, after more than 13 years of aggressive acquisitions, the UK market is controlled by five giants, Stagecoach, FirstGroup, Go-Ahead, National Express and Arriva, which have swallowed

up most of the regional and local companies freed up by deregulation. This left them with a huge degree of buying power vis-à-vis their suppliers, which enabled them to put a squeeze on bus makers' prices and margins. In this respect, a tie-up between two bus makers is seen as an effective way of

counterbalancing the bus companies' bargaining power. According to Tim Kluczkowski, an analyst with Granville Davies: "The bus operators have become much bigger in the last decade or so and they have been able to push through large orders and have been able to put pricing pressures on bus



makers." This effect has been magnified by the operators' drive to replace their ageing fleets and to acquire more user-friendly vehicles, such as the low-floor bus developed by Mayflower and Dennis for disabled users.

Despite the overall fall in the number of passengers, bus

companies also had to replace double deckers with single deckers as passengers and traffic changes called for a leaner and quicker means of transport (see chart).

Last year, UK bus companies bought more than 2,700 new buses, a 12 per cent increase on the previous year.

IN BRIEF

ITC challenge from Flextech

FLEXTECH, the television channel provider, yesterday started legal action against the Independent Television Commission over recent changes to the rules under which satellite and cable operators can agree to carry channels.

Flextech is seeking a judicial review to the ITC's abolition of so-called minimum carriage guarantees - the rule by which channel providers can demand that their channels are received by a certain proportion of subscribers. Flextech argues that the ITC has acted outside its authority, has acted illegally by interfering with existing contracts, and has not given enough guidance on the changes.

Health takeover

SHARES in Nycomed Amersham, the Anglo-Norwegian healthcare group, fell 3.75p to 402.25p yesterday after the company confirmed that its joint venture company, Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, is buying Molecular Dynamics, a California-based company, for \$256m (£160m). Nycomed Amersham owns 55 per cent of APB, and the remaining 45 per cent belongs to Pharmacia & Upjohn.

Border says no

BORDER TELEVISION, one of the last independent ITV franchises, has rejected a takeover approach from Scottish Radio. Managing Director Peter Brownlow said the Border board had decided that the approach, received by post on Friday afternoon, did not represent sufficient value for Border shareholders.

He added that no talks were going on between the two groups. Scottish Radio refused to comment.

Lloyd's dispute

THE LLOYD'S insurance market yesterday became embroiled in a row with some of its individual investors over subscriptions and contributions changes.

The Association of Lloyd's Names said forcing both limited and unlimited liability members to make the same contribution to the Central Fund was "inequitable".

No bids for Alpha

ALPHA AIRPORTS, the airport service group in which Harrods holds a 27.8 per cent stake, has admitted it has failed to attract a single credible offer for its retail division, which was put up for sale in February.

Alpha shares, which reached 122p early in June, fell a further 8p to 70p yesterday, knocking £14m off its market value.

The retail division includes more than 80 duty-free and tax-paid outlets in airport terminals in the UK and overseas, and last year provided over half the group's revenues and 44 per cent of its profits.

Orange to buy chunks of talk time in Europe

ORANGE, the mobile-phone operator, is hoping to launch a service in continental Europe by buying large chunks of call time from established mobile-phone operators.

Hans Snook, Orange's managing director, yesterday said the company was in talks with major mobile-phone operators in France and Germany about the idea. Orange would buy billions of minutes of mobile

phone airtime - at a likely cost of hundreds of millions of pounds - over 10-year period, effectively giving it access to a virtual network in both countries. The deal would allow Orange to introduce its own tariffs and extend its brand name.

Meanwhile, he said the network operator who carried the calls would enjoy guaranteed

revenues over a long period. "They could take the deal to a bank and use it to borrow money at a very cheap rate," said Mr Snook. "They could then use that to improve their network."

However, he warned that a deal was still some way off, but the move would allow Orange to make up some of the ground it has lost on competitors such as Vodafone, the UK's largest operator. By joining bids for mo-

bile licenses in countries in Europe and elsewhere, Vodafone has built up an extensive world network.

Mr Snook added that Orange could also force its way into the continental European market by linking up with existing operators to bid for third-generation mobile licenses.

The licenses, to build networks capable of offering access to the Internet and

videoconferencing from a mobile phone, will be auctioned over the next few years.

The government is likely to auction third-generation licenses next summer. As they are likely to be based on a single standard, the phones could easily be used across borders.

Meanwhile, Orange yesterday vowed to continue improving the standards of its UK service. Mr Snook said the

company would next year begin a campaign to encourage people to replace their fixed-line phone with a mobile phone.

Later this year, Orange will launch Daily Talk service, designed to tempt people away from their existing phone lines by offering 20 off-peak call minutes a day for just 50p.

Orange yesterday also reported its first-ever operating profit, making £2.2m in the six

months to June compared to a £39.9m loss in the same period last year.

The company also impressed investors with the disclosure that the average amount spent per year by subscribers had barely fallen, even though Orange has cut its prices and launched a discount pre-pay mobile phone service. The shares closed up 45p at 795p.

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Bloomberg
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Sell-off boosts Inchcape

INCHCAPE SHARES soared yesterday after the company announced major progress in investment plans and promised "substantial" cash handouts to shareholders.

The car distribution to marketing group said it had reached an outline agreement to sell its Russian bottling business to Coca-Cola for \$187m (£115m).

The chairman, Lord Marshall, also revealed that the group was in advanced talks to dispose of similar interests in South America.

Inchcape said in March it planned to float its South American business, but now it hopes

to sell them to Embotelladora Arica, which is partly owned by Coca-Cola.

Inchcape shares rose 19.5p to 195.5p as the City anticipated the two bottling deals could raise over £565m and the company said it would return money to shareholders after April next year.

The chief executive, Philip Cushing, said there was good progress on the pending sale of its shipping services division. It would probably have off its Asian and Middle East marketing business in two parts.

Inchcape unveiled in March

a massive restructuring programme that would involve the sale of all businesses except car distribution.

Mr Cushing said he now hoped that this process would be completed in the first or second quarter of 1999. For tax reasons a cash handout of proceeds from the disposals to shareholders would take place after April.

Analysts' fears that this could leave the rump dangerously exposed to the Asian downturn eased on yesterday's news. The company produced relatively healthy group financial figures. Interim headline pre-tax profits were down from

£78.8m to £50m but operating profit within the core motor business was up by 16 per cent to £51.7m.

There was a particularly strong performance from Greece, Australia and the UK where top performance cars like Ferraris were in hot demand.

The amount of profit produced in Asia was down by nearly a half to 26 per cent, Hong Kong being particularly badly hit. Mr Cushing said the area might have three or four difficult years but the long-term prospects for the region remained very good.

The deal with Coca-Cola in

Russia is still subject to due diligence and regulatory approval. But the proposed price, free of debt, is healthily above net asset value of £96m and the deal should go through by the end of the year.

Business has been difficult in Russia with a 37 per cent fall in volumes. In contrast, South America has been strong. Peru volumes were up by 82 per cent partly due to the introduction of new brands.

Inchcape said it was in advanced stages of discussions with Embotelladora Arica which is a Coca-Cola bottler with operations in Bolivia and Chile.

Investment, page 19

German lesson for euro launch



HAMISH MCRAE

Berlin will be fine in time. Politicians spend money; so do senior executives in new HQs

BERLIN - A few years ago there was a European currency union. No not the European currency union. It was the currency union between the East and West German marks, which took place in 1990 at a rate of one to one.

Of course, the parallels between that particular currency union and the one which starts in Europe next year are not that close.

In Germany in 1990 the two currencies were being linked, ahead of the two being joined politically. West Germany was clearly going to be the dominant partner, though quite how dominant was not clear then. The decision over the rate of conversion was determined on political grounds rather than economic.

Nevertheless, this does happen to be the only recent experience Europe has had of linking currencies. Since this happens to be my first visit to Berlin since the dying days of the old East German regime in the spring of 1990, it seems sensible to try to draw some lessons from this experience.

From the outside Berlin, at least in terms of the amount of new buildings being constructed, is a boom town. It is the world's largest construction site; go to Potsdamer Platz, the old "Piccadilly Circus" of Berlin and never in your life will you see so many cranes. They stretch into the middle distance, as German banks and companies rush to put up new headquarters buildings in what many believe will become continental Europe's most important commercial site.

Nearby the old Reichstag building and other government offices are being restored in preparation for the move of the capital from Bonn next year.

So was the currency union a success? No, it was a disaster, the scale of which is still impossible to judge. In spite of the construction boom, the annual subsidies of approximately £50 billion a year from the former West Germany, and the evident rise in the standard of living of ordinary East Germans, unemployment in the East remains in the mid-teens, nearly double that of the West.

At the time of unification Chancellor Helmut Kohl declared that in 10 years the standard of living in East Germany would have caught up with the West. Now it is clear that this will take 20 years or more. If, as seems likely, Mr Kohl is thrown out in the elections next month, it will be partly because he is being rejected by East German voters. He is even more unpopular here than he is in the West.

What's up? It is partly a currency problem. When the two currencies were merged, East German wages were

about two-thirds of those of the West. Productivity it was thought, was about half the level. So if you allowed for an injection of both capital and management, it seemed plausible that East German labour costs could be brought down to West German levels quite quickly.

There was a risk. Most people were aware that the one-to-one rate was wrong in economic terms, as the Bundesbank warned at the time, but the politics required it. In economic terms it looked difficult but do-able, if the adjustment was spread over several years.

That turned out to be wrong for two reasons. The first was productivity, which was even lower than anyone had thought; not half the level of the West, but a quarter or less. The adjustment needed

exchange rates. Knock off the subsidies and the gap narrows further. And at least they have jobs.

Eventually, provided you are prepared to project forward far enough, I suppose East Germany will recover. Berlin itself ought to be fine, for though the construction boom will fall back and overall growth will decline as a result of that, the move of the capital from Bonn will bring economic activity. Politicians and civil servants spend money. So, too, do senior executives; that string of new headquarters buildings will be populated with well-paid employees.

You can add to that three other "bull" points. One is the scope for growth in the region around Berlin. The city has never grown suburbs like most western cities. The old West Berlin was physically constrained by a wall, and the old East Berlin did not have the resource to sprout a ring of suburbs. As a result you go from a dense city to open fields in about 10 minutes.

Second, Berlin is centrally located for a wider Europe. It is perched on one side of Germany, but is physically close to the fast-growing countries to the east. As Europe rebalances eastwards, Berlin becomes the new hub.

Finally there are the powerful cultural attractions of the place - the museums, the theatre and the opera, the clubs and the food, and of course, the (tarnished) history. But it is hard to feel comfortable about the rest of East Germany which must face another decade of grave difficulty.

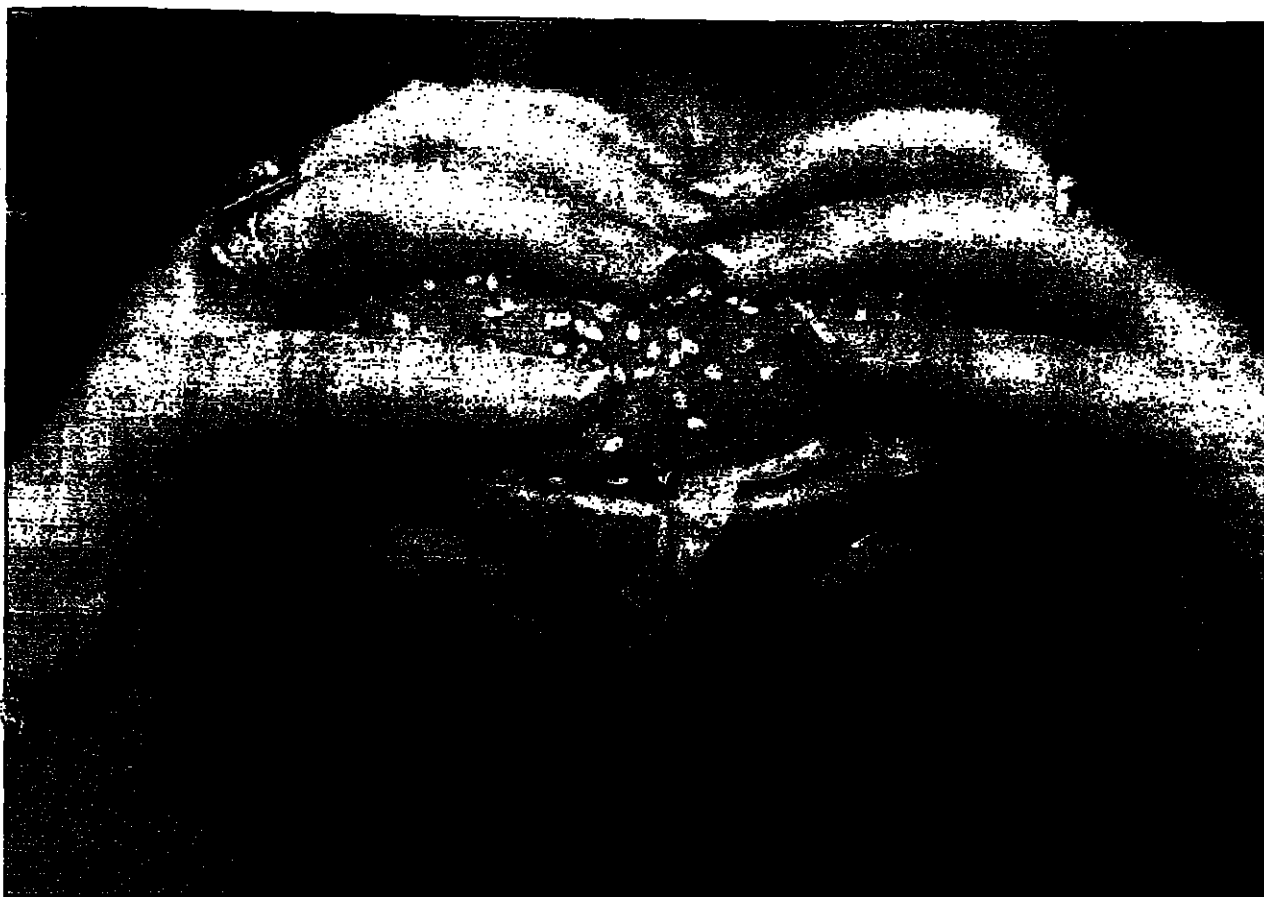
So what are the lessons for EMU? The first lesson is to get the conversion rates right. If you don't, the adjustment process will be painful and prolonged.

The second is that subsidies have to be enormous if they are going to counter the effects of a wrong exchange rate and much lower productivity.

A third is that a single currency makes differences in performance much more explicit; there is nowhere to hide if your prices or wages are wrong. New investment will tend to go where it will get the best return and that is much clearer under a single currency.

And finally, I suppose, there is a political lesson. Politics can achieve an enormous amount. The joining of the two currencies was an act of political will which led to a much faster political integration than has previously been thought possible. But the euphoria of that period has evaporated in the long, cold grind of adjustment.

Voters who are promised something and then find the reality is different are liable to be bad-tempered. We will see how the hero who merged the two German currencies - and then the two Germanies - will be treated in the polls next month.



McDonald's shares are tasty again

SHARES in McDonald's fast-food chain climbed 3 per cent in New York yesterday as the company said it expected per-share earnings growth of 10 per cent to 15 per cent a year in the next five years.

After a strong second quarter, the company said last month that the performance could not be sustained all year and the shares fell 5.6 per cent.

BT Alex Brown expects US domestic operating profits in the second half to grow by up to 10 per cent. McDonald's is predicting another record year for international operations.

Restaurant owner and franchiser Planet Hollywood International reported a second-quarter net loss of \$1.4m (£860,000); last year it made a \$16.3m profit in the period.

Ascot pays £30m for stake in ChiroTech

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

CHIROSCIENCE, Britain's second-largest biotechnology company, yesterday sold a 30 per cent stake in its drug manufacturing unit to chemical group Ascot for £30m in a deal which will raise around £15m to fund drug research.

The sale of the minority stake in ChiroTech, which develops complex compounds for pharmaceutical companies, triggered a rally in ChiroScience shares. The stock closed up 3 per cent to 225.5p. Ascot shares rose 12.5p to 273.5p.

ChiroScience said that the sale of the stake in ChiroTech would bring its cash reserves for the year to £50m, enough to pay for at least two years of drug research spending. ChiroScience spends around £18m a year on research, but costs tend to rise during clinical trials.

Like most biotechnology companies, ChiroScience reports losses in the early stages of drug development in the hope of recouping the money when the compound is sold on the market. John Padfield, the chief executive, said: "This deal proves once and for all we don't have to go back to the stock market to raise more cash."

He said ChiroScience could sell the remaining 70 per cent of ChiroTech, which revenues of £7.1m last year, if it needed to raise more cash. The company hopes to win approval for its first major drug, the anaesthetic Chirocaine, later this year.

Ascot, a £250m-a-year business with interests in chemicals and engineering, said the deal would strengthen its existing drug-making businesses.

China acts to support yuan

DEALERS in Shanghai reported yesterday that the People's Bank of China made its third foray into the market since 31 July to hold the yuan at 8.28 to the US dollar.

Last week the black market exchange rate rose well above this level as investors bet on a devaluation.

While the Japanese yen struggled to keep just above its lowest rate against the US dollar this year, increasing nerves about the yuan forced the People's Bank to make a foray into the foreign exchange markets to support its currency.

Characteristically, the People's Bank declined to comment

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

on these reports, but Peking's commitment not to devalue was reiterated at the weekend.

On Sunday President Jiang Zemin told the Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura that China was determined to avoid a devaluation in spite of pressure from a weak yen. However, reports in Hong Kong yesterday said that Zhu Rongji, the premier, was coming under increasing pressure from exporters to make them more competitive by devaluing.

Peking has managed to hold the value of the yuan during the

year-long Asian financial crisis. Devaluation would threaten a chain throughout the region, and possibly deal a death-blow to the Hong Kong dollar's fixed rate of exchange with the US dollar.

Expectations of a yuan devaluation provoked a wave of speculative pressure on the Hong Kong dollar late last week, allegedly led by a small number of American banks and hedge funds.

Last Friday the Hong Kong authorities started buying US dollars in the market, thus undermining the currency board system under which the peg to the US dollar is pro-

TECTED, largely by means of raising interest rates and draining liquidity out of the market.

The government maintained that it was not trying to support the currency, but taking an opportunity to buy the Hong Kong dollar cheaply to meet some seasonal requirements.

Pressure on the Hong Kong dollar eased yesterday, allowing three-month interbank rates to fall back to 11 per cent from a 13 per cent level on Friday. This allowed the Hong Kong stock market to stage a minor recovery, bucking the trend in all other Asian markets where currency worries depressed share prices.

£20m rescue bid for Huntingdon

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

A CONSORTIUM of investors led by Andrew Baker, a 49-year-old accountant, is offering a £20m cash transfusion as part of a restructuring package for the biological testing group, Huntingdon Life Sciences, whose shares were suspended 10 days ago.

The package, which would mean installing a new management team with Mr Baker as executive chairman, amounts to a takeover of the group, which has been targeted by the animal rights group PETA.

Huntingdon blames this publicity for the loss of several lucrative contracts and failure to win new ones.

The group's borrowing facilities were renegotiated and increased in March, but they are again near their limits, forcing the directors to ask for the shares to be suspended on 31 July. Yesterday it announced

a pre-tax loss of £3.4m for the six months to June on top of a £7m loss in 1997.

Mr Baker last year formed FHE, an investment group specialising in supporting the start-up and development of companies in healthcare. He is heading a consortium of three US investment funds and five private investors who are subscribing £15m for 120 million new shares at 12.5p a share, a discount of 36 per cent on the price at which the shares were suspended. Another 37 million new shares will be offered to a small group of investors, raising a further £7.1m net of expenses.

A new two-year revolving credit facility agreed with main bankers is conditional on shareholder approval of the reconstruction at an extraordinary meeting on 2 September.

Stagecoach buys NZ bus group

BY TERRY MACALISTER

AUSTRALIA. Currently this region produces only 1.5 per cent of Stagecoach profits.

But the group is currently looking at the potential for making a bid for the Melbourne tram and train network which is being privatised.

Yellow Bus, which produced profits of NZ\$64.1m in the 12 months to June 30, operates 530 buses and has 930 employees.

Once the cash transaction is completed next week, it will bring the total number of Stagecoach buses to 12,500 making it one of the largest operators in the world.

Stagecoach has plans to invest in new equipment for Yellow Buses and points out that it has not increased the fares for eight years in its existing New Zealand operation.

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'Growing mistrust' behind Shell's fall

THINGS ARE not going well at Shell. Top-rated oil analyst Fergus MacLeod, at investment house BT Alex Brown, cites a "growing sense of mistrust" as a prime reason for the dramatic decline in the oil giant's shares since Mark Moody-Stuart took over.

He became what Shell grandly calls chairman of the committee of managing directors last month. Since then Shell's capitalisation has fallen by £24bn.

"Such enormous loss of shareholder value cannot be blamed on oil prices, which have moved sideways since Moody-Stuart's appointment, nor on stock markets as the shares have underperformed the UK and Dutch markets by 11 per cent and 13 per cent respectively," says Mr MacLeod.

A sad inability to communicate is largely responsible, he feels. The fall represents unease in the market about Shell's progress in its efforts to transform its financial performance and a failure of communication between the company and its shareholders.

Shell's shares have crashed from 484.5p in October to a 12-month low

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

of 356p. They ended a modest rally by losing 9p to 367p yesterday.

Mr MacLeod takes the view the shares are now worth buying. He talks about a "significant upside", particularly if, as he expects, the communication breakdown is resolved.

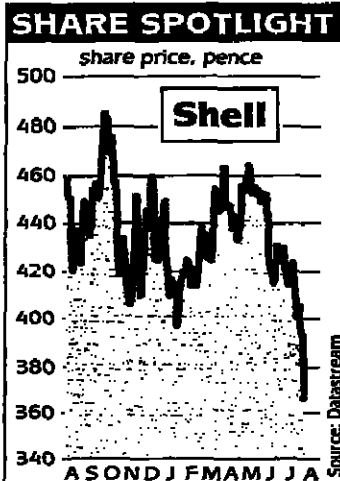
With equities deep in uncertainty, Shell failed to respond to BT's buy advice. At one time down 124.5 points, Footsie ended 92.8 off at 5,587.6. Around 12 points were stripped out of the calculation by blue chips which went ex-dividend.

In the summertime heat, trading was exceedingly thin with many of the big hitters away and those still in touch content to follow New York's every gyrations. Another poor overnight performance by Tokyo added to the depression.

The atmosphere was not helped by the latest Merrill Lynch survey which said fund managers were switching out of equities into Government stocks (the long-dated Gilt were sharply higher).

August is a notoriously poor time for the market. So far this month Footsie has lost nearly 250 points. Supporting indices were a little more resilient, however. Helped by the takeover activity among bus and coach-makers, the mid cap index held its retreat to 18.3 at 5,304.7; the small cap was off 7.5 at 2,405.6.

The Mayflower Corporation bid for Dennis and the arrival of Volvo created a flurry of bus and coach activity. Dennis, which had agreed a friendly merger with Henrys, motored 13p to 184.5p, launched its takeover assault and moved into the market to buy 1.5 per



cent of its target at 450p. Henrys put on 48.5p to 577.5p. Volvo, the Swedish group, said it intends to buy 10 per cent of the company to reinforce existing trading arrangements. The Swedish move quickly produced thoughts that it could eventually roll out a full-scale bid. Takeover speculation, rather than action, engulfed the two English generators with National

Power adding 16p to 539p and PowerGen 12p to 780p.

NP is said to be the target of a consortium led by John Devaney, chief executive of Energy, a subsidiary of Texas Utilities. He is said to be trying to raise the £7bn NP would require. PG is thought to still hanker after a US deal.

Orange, on results, led the blue chip board with a 45p gain to 795p and BG continued to shrug off the gloom with a 2.5p gain to 384p following upbeat analyst comments.

Properties, for so long down in the dumps, perked up with British Land, firm on Friday, putting on 20.5p to 556p and Land Securities 20.5p to 843.5p.

BT fell 21p to 819p. Chris Girdlestone at Henderson Christchurch lifted his target price to 1,000p. He describes the joint venture with US giant AT&T as "the deal of the decade for BT".

Chiroscience hardened 6p to 235.5p following a link with Ascot. First Leisure was weak, off 15.5p to 272p, as a large line of stock sought a home. Claremont Garments firmed 2.5p to 32.5p on a possible offer and fitness chain Lady

in Leisure spurred 32p to 225p on a "tentative" approach.

Booker, in talks which could lead to a merger, rose a further 13p to 355p and Border Television, which admitted it had rebuffed an approach from Scottish Radio, improved 36p to 341p. Danka Business Systems firmed 10p to 141.5p on rumours of a bid. Struggling Car Group edged forward 1.5p to 17.5p on takeover speculation.

Reed International, the publisher, continued to feel the impact of Charterhouse Tilney caution, falling 35p to 528p. Dicom, involved in document image processing, slumped 83p to 105p as it plunged into losses.

Newcomer Wilmslow, a leisure and sports clothing group, traded at 2.5p against a 3p placing.

Pan Andean Resources, the oil explorer which once touched the giddy heights of 138p, fell 1p to 10p. As expected there is another loss but the lack of progress in Bolivia is undermining the shares.

SEAQ VOLUME: 617.7m

SEAQ TRADES: 49,866

GILTS INDEX: n/a

ACORN COMPUTER could be on the verge of cashing in its Arm chips. Acorn surprised by disclosing its interim figures would be announced on Friday. Its 27.2 per cent Arm shareholding is worth £140m compared with its capitalisation of £95m. Acorn hopes it could reveal its intentions with its figures. Its shares rose 6p to 108.5p.

JOHN FOSTER, the old Black Dyke Mills cloth making group, more than doubled to 5p. It is emerging as a property play and is in talks to sell what is left of its cloth making side.

COMPUTER GROUP Compel rose 21p to 465p after clinching a deal to supply hardware and software to the BBC for three years, possibly for seven.

IT'S GETTING to be a weekly event - brewer Vaux frothing up on bid speculation. The shares rose 9.5p to 339p; they touched 356p when talks, since ended, were announced in June.

Orange numbers again confound the critics

CAN ORANGE do no wrong? Ever since the mobile phone operator launched its service in 1994 it has made a virtue of confounding its critics. Yesterday it did so all over again, releasing an impressive set of first-half results.

Not that it was the profit figures which so surprised and pleased the market. True, Orange reported its first-ever operating profit and is on course to make a profit at the pre-tax level next year. But what really impressed investors were its statistics for the amount of revenue being racked up by each of its subscribers.

On average, Orange customers are now spending £485 a year on their mobile phone calls, compared to £488 last year: this despite Orange cutting its call rates by giving customers more free minutes, and signing up lots of users to its pre-paid service, where average revenues tend to be much lower.

Meanwhile, cheaper handset prices are also bringing down the cost to Orange of signing up new customers.

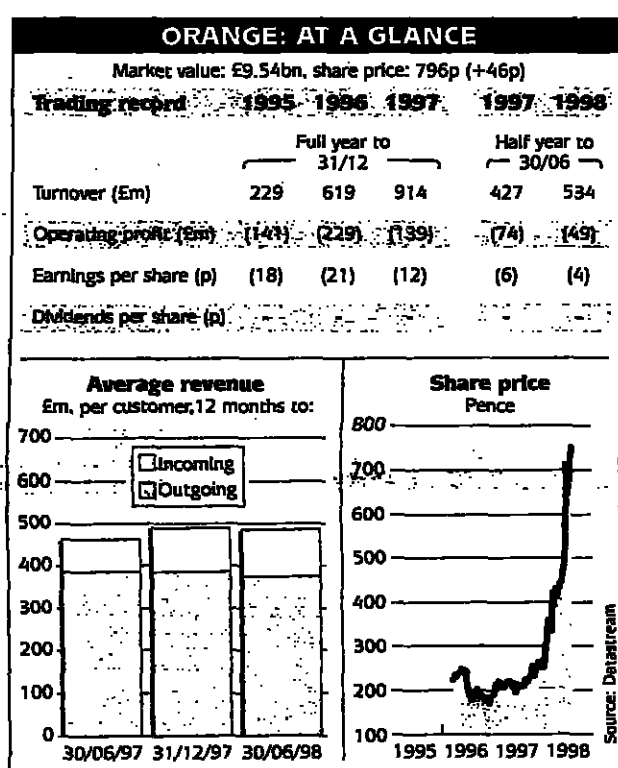
Whether average revenues will continue to hold up after Orange pushes through another round of price cuts later this year remains to be seen. But if the company can continue its aggressive push for new customers - helped by the introduction of number portability early next year - while encouraging existing users to spend more time with their phones pressed to their ears, the City will be happy.

Of course, Orange's competitors are not going to stand by and let it take market share, so the price war may intensify. However, new roaming agreements with other European operators should boost revenues, while a brace of new services will help keep Orange in the race.

On current figures Orange's market value of almost £10bn - the shares added 45p to 795p yesterday - is hard to justify. But as long as continues to keep its promises, the shares remain a firm hold.

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN



Inchcape's new break-up plan

FIVE MONTHS after break-up plan mark one was launched, Inchcape has now introduced an even shinier new model. And this time there is even more to what the appetite for shareholders at the previously struggling car distribution to marketing group.

Plans to demerge the Latin American bottling interests - leaving investors with shares in a Santiago-listed company - have been shelved. Instead, Inchcape is now talking about a cash sale of the division to Coca-Cola-backed Embotelladora Arica of Chile. It has in the process of agreeing the sale of the loss-making Russian bottling operation for £187m (£115m), also to Coca-Cola.

The shipping services division has four potential buyers lined up, while there are new

plans to sell off the Asia-Pacific and Middle East marketing operations separately.

More good news came with interim pre-tax profits which rose from £65m to £89.1m. However, headline earnings per share were down from 8.1p to 6.1p as a result of the Asian downturn, the effect of starting and Inchcape's decision to cut its shareholding in Toyota (UK) from 75 to 49 per cent.

But Inchcape has weathered the Asian storm relatively well and the core motor division - which will be left when the restructuring is completed early next year - appears to have sound prospects.

The share price took wing yesterday, soaring 19.5p to 195.5p as the company promised "substantial" cash handouts to shareholders next year. Depending on how much they think the disposals will fetch, analysts are using figures of 265p to 270p as a break-up value. That still makes the

share price look cheap. But remember that the latest plans are not yet done deals: the shares are fairly valued at this level.

Alpha is only for the brave

REDEEMING hostages to fortune is never cheap and rarely inspires confidence. Yesterday Alpha Airports, the airport catering and support group where Harrods is the leading shareholder with a 27.8 per cent stake, paid the penalty after chief executive Kevin Abbott said he had not received a single decent offer for the chain of airport shops he put up for sale in February.

Mr Abbott blamed the deepening impact of the Asian economic crisis on the fortunes of potential buyers. Nevertheless, the planned disposal has now been formally withdrawn, leaving the company in the middle of a credibility crisis.

Mr Abbott originally put the division up for sale in order to raise cash. He argued that Alpha lacked the resources to develop airport retailing as well as its flight catering and ground services divisions. The sale of the one would help finance the expansion of the others.

Alpha now plans to finance the development of all three divisions with the help of a new £100m long-term facility from its major bankers. But after such a dramatic U-turn, shareholders must be asking whether existing management is up to the job. Retailing was the largest single division last year, accounting for 52 per cent of turnover and generating 44 per cent of profits.

The outlook is further clouded by the impending loss of duty-free sales on flights between EU member states. The shares, which shed 8p to 70p yesterday, now trade on barely six times this year's prospective earnings rising to seven in 1999. But given the current uncertainties, the shares are only for the brave.

IN BRIEF

C&W clinches Hanoi deal

CABLE & WIRELESS has clinched a \$207m (£127m) deal to install 250,000 telephone lines in Hanoi, British embassy sources said, adding that an official announcement will be made later by the company's head office.

The deal was formalised at a meeting between British Minister of Trade and Industry Brian Wilson and Vietnam's Minister of Planning and Investment Tran Xuan Gia, the sources said.

Leisure offer

LADY IN LEISURE Group, which operates ladies-only health and fitness clubs, listed on the Alternative Investment Market, said yesterday that it had received a tentative approach that may or may not lead to an offer being made for the company.

It said a further announcement will be made in due course, and advised shareholders to take no action pending further information from the board.

Carpet buyback

CARPETRIGHT, the carpet retailer headed by Lord Harris of Peckham, continued its share buyback programme yesterday by acquiring 496,000 of its ordinary shares at a price of 262p per share. The shares have fallen from a peak of 624p in the past year. They closed unchanged yesterday at 264p.

Claremont up

SHARES in Claremont Garments, the Marks & Spencer lingerie and casualwear supplier, rose 8 pence yesterday to 32.5p, after the company revealed it is reassessing its future and is in talks over a possible offer.

The company revealed that it is currently reviewing a "range of strategic options" including the potential for disposal of business units and the possibility of an offer for the company.

Barristers taken to task over fees

IF YOU thought "fat cattery" was restricted to the privatised utilities, have a look at the legal profession. The Bar Council has admitted secretly that some barristers are claiming "indiscreetly high" legal aid fees after the Government handed it a list of 20 barristers whose fees have been heavily reduced on taxation.

This week's *Lawyer* magazine says that it has obtained a confidential memo which reports "anecdotal accounts of barristers claiming fees where they do not appear entitled to do so, or of silks discovering that their juniors are claiming indiscreetly high amounts."

The memo adds: "One barrister sent in a response to the Inland Revenue... indicating that he was inflating his fees knowing that they would be taxed down" [by the courts].

The memo stems from a crackdown by the Lord Chancellor's Department on overcharging. It was written by Mark Stobbs, head of professional standards and legal services at the Bar Council, and circulated to its professional standards committee.

Coincidentally the *Lawyer* also reports that public opinion of lawyers in the US is at an all-time low. "A recent survey showed that 70 per cent of the public viewed lawyers as greedy compared with 52 per cent last year."

STILL ON the subject of the legal profession, I've just received a press notice from the National Investigation Service (NIS) of HM Customs & Excise that a practising barrister from Manchester was sentenced yesterday to six months imprisonment for fraudulently evading VAT.

Mr. Customs notice says: "Richard Alan Quenby altered figures on his returns which had been supplied to him by his chambers accountants."

"Officers from the NIS proved that the amount of VAT evaded over a nine month period was £8,500. Quenby

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



anyone off trying to sell anything.

I've no idea whether this time will improve anyone's management skills, but it's a good read. *Fictions of Business* will be published on 24 September by John Wiley & Sons, price £17.99.

JUAN SOTOLONGO, a Cuban-born businessman, has just bought a "customer care" call centre in the City from AT&T, and his sights are set on more acquisitions in this expanding sector on the continent.

Mr Sotolongo was working for UPS last year when he started researching the call centre sector. He then set up a company called 7C with Simon Phillips of Bridgewater Management Consultancy and sold 40 per cent of the company to an investors' group. 7C announced yesterday that it had bought AT&T Solutions Customer Care.

"Our main customers are AT&T, Boots and Vodafone," says Mr Sotolongo, who claims London is a good place to recruit people with language skills - 7C deals with customer in over 15 countries.

So is the name "7C" some pun on seven seas? "No, it was suggested by one of our staff. It stands for communication, consultancy, camaraderie, commitment, customer-centred and call centres."

VALERIE GORDON-WALKER has left her job as human resources director at Barclays Capital to do the same job at German investment banking rival Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale (WestLB).

WestLB is growing and now includes the famous Gordon stockbroking house, and Quorum, a fund manager which specialises in quantitative techniques.

Ms Gordon-Walker previously worked at The Merrett Group, Lloyd's underwriters, and Marks & Spencer. She is described by one former colleague as "extremely professional and thoroughly charming with it."

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES				
Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
Australia	1.0000	2.7357	2.7278	0.6118
Canada	0.7402	20.363	20.231	1.6788
Denmark	0.5925	59.720	59.338	12.506
France	6.4814	2.8737	2.8658	16.877
Germany	1.0778	11.044	10.983	12.481
Italy	1.4746	8.8004	8.7478	12.604
Japan	8.837	1.4700	1.4618	151.774
Netherlands	8.747	8.711	8.648	1.5195
Portugal	201.909	2.8999	2.8817	0.8525
Spain	162.482	12.400	12.373	1.1084
Sweden	1.1562	11.548	11.517	1.1099
Switzerland	2.4602	13.162	13.091	1.1126
USA	0.6917	7.0995	7.2728	1.3496
UK	1.0000			1.0000
Other				

INTEREST RATES				
Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year
UK	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
USA	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Other				

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES				
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor
Long Gilt	50p	110.10	109.70	3653.00
Short Gilt	50p	110.10	109.70	3653.00
Long Euro	50p	110.10	109.70	3653.00
Short Euro	50p	110.10	109.70	3653.00
Long Yen	50p	110.10	109.70	3653.00
Short Yen	50p	110.10	109.70	3653.00
Other				

INDUSTRIAL METALS				
LME (\$/tonne)	Cash	3 month	6 month	12 month
Aluminium	1301.5	1302.5	1303.5	1304.5
Copper	1610.5	1611.5	1612.5	1613.5
Gold	341.5	342.5	343.5	344.5
Lead	1042.5	1043.5	1044.5	1045.5
Nickel	1042.5	1043.5	1044.5	1045.5
Platinum	1042.5	1043.5	1044.5	1045.5
Silver	1042.5	1043.5	1044.5	1045.5
Steel	1042.5	1043.5	1044.5	1045.5
Other				

OTHER SPOT RATES				
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Other	Other
Argentina	1.6329	0.9990	0.6292	0.3850
Brazil	9.9109	1.1891	0.6292	0.3850
China	13.533	6.7799	0.6292	0.3850
Czech Rep	9.9109	1.1891	0.6292	0.3850
France	6.4814	2.8737	0.6292	0.3850
Germany	1.0778	11.044	0.6292	0.3850
Italy	1.4746	8.8004	0.6292	0.3850
Japan	8.837	1.4700	0.6292	0.3850
Netherlands	8.747	8.711	0.6292	0.3850
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Switzerland	2.4602	13.162	0.6292	0.3850
USA	0.6917	7.0995	0.6292	0.3850
Other				

MONEY MARKET RATES				
Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months
UK	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
USA	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Other				

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Short Euro	50p	110.10	109.70	3653.00
Long Yen	50p	110.10	109.70	3653.00
Short Yen	50p	110.10	109.70	3653.00
Other				

AGRICULTURAL				
Commodity	Unit	Price	Unit	Price
Wheat	50kg	110.10	50kg	110.10
Barley	50kg	110.10	50kg	110.10
Maize	50kg	110.10	50kg	110.10
Soybeans	50kg	110.10	50kg	110.10
Other				

SPORT

Premiership countdown: The most important man in Tottenham's team this season will not even be on the pitch



Christian Gross, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, has his eyes on a prize this season and will hope his new fitness instructor can keep his best players ready for action rather than on the treatment table

Allsport

Gross keen for clean bill of health

BY ADAM SZRETER

KUNLE ODETOLAYO might not be a household name in north London, let alone the rest of the country, but he could turn out to be the most significant signing Tottenham Hotspur have made for several years.

At the start of almost every season it seems Spurs have the playing power to compete with the very best, but for at least the past three years their prospects have been blighted by an appalling run of injuries. It eventually cost Gerry Francis his job but Christian Gross, his successor in the White Hart Lane hot seat, is determined to avoid the same fate. Hence Odetolayo's appointment last April.

Odetolayo holds a masters degree in sport science, not to mention a certificate in nutritional

science, and as Spurs' new fitness instructor he will be responsible for ensuring that this season the millions of pounds worth of talent at the club's disposal spends more time on the pitch than it has on the treatment table.

Tottenham have added only one new name to their playing staff – the Italian full-back Paolo Tramezzani – but if others like Darren Anderton, Les Ferdinand and Chris Armstrong can stay healthy, and the Norwegian striker Steffen Iversen returns to full fitness, Gross will be entitled to feel he can make a fresh start after the trauma of last season's flirtation with relegation.

"I'm confident in the quality of the players but we need them to stay fit," Gross said recently during the club's pre-season press conference at the Spurs Lodge, where training

facilities have been considerably enhanced over the summer.

"I understand the fans' expectations, and I can guarantee them we'll have a strong team. But it's very important that we make a good start, and then we can look forward. The level is very even in the Premiership. I am ambitious and so are the players – they won't be happy just to avoid relegation again."

"The games here in England are like boxing fights," the Swiss coach added. "Every team, even in away games, is looking for three points and it makes for big entertainment with a lot of passion, but you have to be fit. Kunle has experience of working on a one-to-one basis with different athletes, not just in football, and I'm used to working with fitness coaches. I'm changing our ideas and I wanted him to be here. The players are

used now to the methods and the way I like to train them, we just have to keep going and improve our consciousness on the pitch."

Allan Nielsen, the Spurs midfield player and a World Cup quarter-

'I'm confident in the quality of the players but we need them to stay fit. The games in England are like boxing fights'

finalist with Denmark, is in no doubt about the value of proper attention to fitness. "I was disappointed by what we did in pre-season last year," he said.

"It wasn't what I was used to, but now it's very well organised. There's a discipline in what we're doing. If the team is in good shape, you're capable of playing better football and you're more free to try things on the pitch."

Nielsen found his own situation compromised by injuries to other players last season, filling in at left-back for the last few games. "I was happy to help out," he said, "but I'm a midfield player and the coach knows that."

Expectations of Nielsen will have risen after France 98, and the same will apply to Darren Anderton. Tottenham fans have been denied the best of the England winger because of injury, and Anderton will be anxious to put that right.

"He's a very important player for us and we don't want him to have any

more problems," Gross said. "He can make the game very fast, he's one of these players who likes to play one-touch. He had an excellent World Cup and it was Glenn [Hoddie's] choice to put him on the right-hand side of a five-man midfield, but we won't be playing with five. Maybe he'll play on the right, maybe in the middle."

Gross says Tottenham's options are limited when it comes to signing players, and that they are unlikely to add to the squad ahead of Saturday's first match at Wimbledon.

"The fact that Tottenham are not involved in any European competitions makes it not so easy to deal with the really well-known players," Gross said.

"They're looking on the money side, of course, but they're also

interested in playing in Europe. Any new signing must make sense. There is money available, but it must be the right player. It must be the right balance between young and experienced players."

As far as this season's targets are concerned, qualification for Europe would be a start, but if Odetolayo can work wonders behind the scenes then who knows?

"Last year we battled against relegation," Nielsen said, "so it's a big step to say we're going to win something. The first thing is to have a good start, get some confidence, score some goals and then anything can happen."

"We want to go as far as we can and play good football as well. I've got another two years left on my contract, and I want to see Spurs in the top five in that time."

Now troubled Beckham faces a first-team fight

THE THEORY that clubs who join the European super-league will require squads of 40 overlooks one thing: Manchester United already have enough players for three teams, and several high-profile figures will be lucky to appear for the first XI this season unless injuries strike.

The most prominent of them is David Beckham, who may be No 1 in the hate list of rival supporters who blame his petulance for England's World Cup defeat by Argentina, but is by no means guaranteed to be in premier position when United decide their first-choice midfield.

Other players who could struggle to play are Teddy Sheringham, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Henning Berg, David May and Dennis Irwin. Even Paul Scholes, who was lauded during France 98, is not guaranteed a place. To put it mildly, Alex Ferguson has a selection headache even before he signs the striker he has been promising himself during the summer. A look at United's playing

If clubs need large squads to compete with Europe's elite, Manchester United are already well placed. By Guy Hodgson

resources underlines his problems. He has six full-backs who would be first choices in most Premiership teams and five centre-backs with first-team experience now that Jaap Stam, his £10.75m signing in the summer, has made his bow.

"You can't relax," Gary Neville, the England defender who made 46 appearances last season, said. "I have seen the manager drop better players than Gary Neville and I've seen him sell better players than Gary Neville. It's going to be difficult to be certain of a first-team place."

If Neville is concerned about his position, then the midfield players should be wracked with doubt. A fully-fit Roy Keane and Ryan Giggs should be the only ones able to look at the team list without qualms, but

even the Welsh winger may have competition. Jesper Blomqvist seems to have been given assurances about not playing second fiddle to Giggs. Add the fact that Ferguson, when given a choice, has always opted for Nicky Butt to complement a prickly core, and the numbers are not adding up already.

Throw into the equation Phil Mulryne, a Northern Ireland international who scored a hat-trick from midfield against Birmingham City in a friendly last month, and the prospects of Beckham and Scholes gaining automatic selection are, at best, complicated.

With Beckham there is also the question of how he will react to the vilification he will get at away grounds this season. Last season he

responded to abuse about his girlfriend, Victoria Adams (aka Posh Spice), and was fortunate to escape disciplinary censure. This time, with the eyes of the football world on him, he might not be as lucky.

Glenn Hoddie was not the only one who noticed that Beckham was below his best in United's run-in last season. Ferguson said his Spice Boy was having problems reconciling his life as a celebrity with the bread and butter of kicking a piece of leather around a muddy pitch.

Then again, wearing sarongs and getting sent off in important international matches is not designed to lower your profile. "I have tried to emphasise to him that it is a physical game where players of talent will always be singled out for a hard time," Ferguson said. "I have told him the only way to get back at these people is with the ball."

Up front United are blessed with the Premiership's top scorer, Andy Cole, and with Solskjaer and Sheringham, who surely is too talented



England internationals who face a challenge (from left): Beckham, Scholes and Sheringham

to have as lacklustre a season as last time. That is if he plays, of course.

It is among the strikers that you feel Ferguson will be tempted to experiment, or even change the personnel to suit occasions.

Ferguson has used Giggs through the centre before now with mixed results, and Scholes has been earmarked by the United manager as the ultimate successor to Eric Cantona in the space behind the front runner. There is also the prospect of Dwight Yorke or some-

one of similar calibre adding to the riches. United have dabbled with using horses for courses and Ferguson could have Giggs breaking from midfield to support a sole striker on their travels, particularly in Europe, and then using him on the left flank at Old Trafford. Tactical expediency, not the urge to protect, could mean Beckham does not play other than at home.

United's team in Sunday's Charity Shield read: Schmeichel; G Neville, Stam, Johnsen, Irwin; Beck-

ham, Keane, Butt, Giggs; Scholes, Cole – which left an alternative 11 (when everyone is fit) of Van der Gouw, Curtis, Berg, May, P Neville, Mulryne, Wallwork, Cruyff, Blomqvist, Sheringham, Solskjaer. There are eight internationals in that second team, with promising youngsters like Wes Brown and Michael Clegg waiting to come in.

Ferguson has estimated it will be 10 years before a European super league takes off but, at a pinch, United would be ready tomorrow.

Celtic players in pay dispute

THE MANAGING director of Celtic, Fergus McCann, hit out last night at three players who refused to attend a publicity event because they were unhappy with bonus arrangements at the club.

Marc Rieper, Regi Blinker and Jackie McNamara were all due to launch a new Umbro away kit at a photocall, but it was called off at late notice following the pay dispute. McCann said the dispute concerns bonus money awarded should Celtic defeat Croatia Zagreb over two qualifying legs this month and reach the Champions' League. The first leg is tomorrow.

"It is very unfortunate, but the players appeared to be claiming they were not being offered enough money in terms of additional bonuses for the next European tie, which I find outrageous," McCann said.

He added that generous bonuses had been paid for winning last season's Premier League title, and even for Celtic's earlier qualifying match in Dublin against St Patrick's Athletic last week. "To be honest, without being disrespectful, in St Pat's we beat a team whose salaries in total did not match one player's weekly tax here."

"We shared the benefits of that game in Dublin quite substantially with the players with a huge bonus 10 times above the standard rate."

McCann admitted the situation might now need to be reviewed and revised, but complained at the players' opt-out to debate the matter around 48 hours before Celtic's most important match in a decade. He said: "The concern I have is this idea of holding the club to ransom."

We've shown in the past we will not be blackmailed by an individual player nor will we be by an approach of this kind."

The Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, was due to hold talks with the defender, David Unsworth, last night in an attempt to persuade him to return to Villa Park.

Unsworth's move to Everton has collapsed after the Goodison Park side failed to meet Gregory's deadline to complete the deal by 5pm last Friday.

"I shall be reminding him that Villa are the club that want him," said Gregory. "David has got to get back to work and the situation cannot drag on any longer. He needs to start training again if only to make sure that he doesn't get out of condition."

Manchester United unveiled details of their new television station, MUTV, yesterday. The channel, which will broadcast six hours per evening of news, interviews and archive games - but no first-team matches - will be available via cable for £4.99 a month from 10 September.

The Nationwide League's opening games at the weekend attracted the highest crowd figures in over 20 years. Matches in the three divisions attracted almost 350,000 fans in total - a six per cent increase on last season's opening day figures.

The experienced Wolves striker, Steve Claridge, joined Portsmouth yesterday for an undisclosed fee.

Fifa, world football's governing body, confirmed yesterday that Polish clubs were free to compete in Europe this season. The move followed the Polish FA's sack of its board.



Celtic's captain, Tommy Boyd (right), bows his head as the chairman, Fergus McCann (left) is roundly jeered while addressing the crowd at Parkhead, prior to the Scottish champions' first League game of the season against Dunfermline earlier this month. *Daily Record*

Keane blames jeering 'idiots'

MANCHESTER UNITED'S captain, Roy Keane, has spoken out in support of his beleaguered team-mate, David Beckham, in his efforts to shrug off the terrace boo boys.

United's England midfielder was given a taste of the abuse he will have to endure over the coming months when he was jeered every time he touched the ball during the Charity Shield defeat against Arsenal.

Supporters are using Beckham's sending off during England's game against Argentina in the World Cup as an excuse for the campaign of vilification, and the Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, fears that the abuse could go on for months yet. United's first away game of the new Premiership season is at West Ham on 22 August, where supporters have been planning a hostile reception for Beckham involving the distribution of hundreds of red cards among the crowd.

Keane says the abuse is totally unjustified, but has himself learned to live with being targeted by the fans of opposing teams and he firmly believes that Beckham can do the same.

"Becks is old enough and mature enough to deal with this," he said. "He's paid to play football and while it's easy for us to say basically he's just got to try and ignore it and let his feet do the talking."

"He's a good lad. The criticism he's getting is obviously undeserved, but with football fans there are a few idiots about. We are professionals and are paid to play football - that's what it is about at the end of the day, not listening to some idiots shouting their mouths off."

Keane suggested that Beckham should look at the abuse in a positive way and use it to spur him on.

"He should take it as a compliment because I'm sure the fans who are giving him sicks would all love him to play in their team," he pointed out. "He's got to realise that and get on with the business of playing well and winning matches for Manchester United."

Alloa rewarded with day out at Ibrox York seek Little upset

ALLOA WERE yesterday given the lucrative reward of a trip to Ibrox following their 1-0 Scottish League Cup second-round success at Dundee on Saturday.

The Second Division team were drawn against Rangers in the third round, following their win at Dens Park courtesy of a goal by Gregor McKeechule.

Their central defender, John McCormack, said yesterday: "This is a huge boost for the club, and the players will enjoy being on such a stage."

The pick of the other ties, which will be played on Tuesday or Wednesday 18 or 19 August, is Airdrie against the holders of the trophy, Celtic. That match looks certain to take place at the First Division club's newly opened 10,000-capacity Shyberry Excelsior stadium.

Livingston, also of the Second Division, will again face opposition from the Scottish Premier League (after defeating Dunfermline) after they were drawn at Kilmarnock.

A potential shock may come when Dundee United, who edged past Stirling on Saturday only via penalties, visit Third Division Ross County Hibernian, relegated last season from the Premier Division, have an Easter Road meeting with Aberdeen that promises much.

Motherwell will expect to defeat Ayr, but St Johnstone may be troubled by Falkirk, who beat the McDiarmid Park team in last year's Scottish Cup. Hearts also meet First Division opposition as they look to add silverware to their Scottish Cup triumph, with a home tie against Raith at Tynecastle.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP third round draws: Kilmarnock v Livingston; Ross County v Dundee; Ayr v Falkirk; St Johnstone v Hearts; Raith Hibernian v Aberdeen; Rangers v Airdrie; Celtic v Dundee. (Ties to be played on Tuesday 18 August or Wednesday 19 August.)

ALAN LITTLE is hoping his York City side can enhance their reputation for League Cup upsets tonight when they begin their Worthington Cup campaign with a first-round first-leg tie against Sunderland at Bootham Crescent.

York disposed of Manchester United and Everton in two of the last three seasons, and Little must decide whether

to give the wing-back Gordon Connolly his debut. With four players injured and two suspended, Connolly could be given his chance.

The one-time York player, Darren Williams, will again deputise for Sunderland's Lee Clark, who has a broken leg, while John Mullin is available again after suspension.

FA Carling Premiership fixtures 1998-99

AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
Saturday 15 August 1998	Blackburn v Derby	Saturday 29 August	Arsenal v Charlton	Saturday 3 October	Blackburn v West Ham	Saturday 13 October	Arsenal v Newcastle	Saturday 27 October	Arsenal v Tottenham	Saturday 10 November	Arsenal v Liverpool	Saturday 24 November	Arsenal v Tottenham	Saturday 8 December	Arsenal v Liverpool	Saturday 22 December	Arsenal v Tottenham	Saturday 5 January 1999	Arsenal v Liverpool
Sunday 16 August	Everton v Manchester Utd v Leicester	Sunday 29 August	Charlton v Everton	Sunday 3 October	Blackburn v West Ham	Sunday 13 October	Chelsea v Arsenal	Sunday 27 October	Blackburn v Tottenham	Sunday 10 November	Blackburn v Liverpool	Sunday 24 November	Blackburn v Tottenham	Sunday 8 December	Blackburn v Liverpool	Sunday 22 December	Blackburn v Tottenham	Sunday 5 January 1999	Blackburn v Liverpool
Sunday 16 August	Southampton v Liverpool	Sunday 29 August	Charlton v Southampton	Sunday 3 October	Blackburn v West Ham	Sunday 13 October	Chelsea v Arsenal	Sunday 27 October	Blackburn v Tottenham	Sunday 10 November	Blackburn v Liverpool	Sunday 24 November	Blackburn v Tottenham	Sunday 8 December	Blackburn v Liverpool	Sunday 22 December	Blackburn v Tottenham	Sunday 5 January 1999	Blackburn v Liverpool
Monday 17 August	Arsenal v Nottingham Forest	Monday 22 August	Charlton v Southampton	Monday 3 October	Blackburn v West Ham	Monday 13 October	Chelsea v Arsenal	Monday 27 October	Blackburn v Tottenham	Monday 10 November	Blackburn v Liverpool	Monday 24 November	Blackburn v Tottenham	Monday 8 December	Blackburn v Liverpool	Monday 22 December	Blackburn v Tottenham	Monday 5 January 1999	Blackburn v Liverpool
Saturday 22 August	Charlton v Southampton	Saturday 29 August	Arsenal v Charlton	Saturday 3 October	Blackburn v West Ham	Saturday 13 October	Arsenal v Newcastle	Saturday 27 October	Arsenal v Tottenham	Saturday 10 November	Arsenal v Liverpool	Saturday 24 November	Arsenal v Tottenham	Saturday 8 December	Arsenal v Liverpool	Saturday 22 December	Arsenal v Tottenham	Saturday 5 January 1999	Arsenal v Liverpool
Sunday 23 August	Aston Villa v Middlesbrough	Sunday 29 August	Charlton v Everton	Sunday 3 October	Blackburn v West Ham	Sunday 13 October	Chelsea v Arsenal	Sunday 27 October	Blackburn v Tottenham	Sunday 10 November	Blackburn v Liverpool	Sunday 24 November	Blackburn v Tottenham	Sunday 8 December	Blackburn v Liverpool	Sunday 22 December	Blackburn v Tottenham	Sunday 5 January 1999	Blackburn v Liverpool
Monday 24 August	Leeds v Blackburn	Monday 29 August	Charlton v Everton	Monday 3 October	Blackburn v West Ham	Monday 13 October	Chelsea v Arsenal	Monday 27 October	Blackburn v Tottenham	Monday 10 November	Blackburn v Liverpool	Monday 24 November	Blackburn v Tottenham	Monday 8 December	Blackburn v Liverpool	Monday 22 December	Blackburn v Tottenham	Monday 5 January 1999	Blackburn v Liverpool
Saturday 29 August	Arsenal v Charlton	Saturday 29 August	Charlton v Everton	Saturday 3 October	Blackburn v West Ham	Saturday 13 October	Arsenal v Newcastle	Saturday 27 October	Arsenal v Tottenham	Saturday 10 November	Arsenal v Liverpool	Saturday 24 November	Arsenal v Tottenham	Saturday 8 December	Arsenal v Liverpool	Saturday 22 December	Arsenal v Tottenham	Saturday 5 January 1999	Arsenal v Liverpool
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Double blow for punters

Phil Smith

le his third consecutive Saturday handicap after chasing home Jo Mell at Ascot last week and running in Goodwood's Stewards' Cup the Saturday before.

ANTE-POS

As well as his 99 appearances on the Flat, *Pay Homage* has had two official runs over hurdles. "He didn't really enjoy it," the trainer said. "My daughter Clare also won on him at Wincanton, although it was a charity race which was not officially recognised," he added.

Rodger Farrant, clerk of the course at Bath is delighted *Pay Homage* will reach his century at the course. "He's been a grand old servant who has always been welcome here," Farrant said.

TOTE EBOR HANDICAP (1m 8f)						
Horse (trainer/schooler)	Conc'd	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Stanley	Total	
Striding (P) (Gibbs)	8-1	7-1	7-1	6-1	8-1	
Belvedere (High) (Gibbs)	8-1					
Belvedere (L) (Carnegie)	10-1	10-1	8-1	11-1	10-1	
Strawfield (J) (Gordon/Doddy)	drawn	10-1				
Street General (P) (Cox/Hobbs)	12-1	10-1	10-1	8-1	10-1	
Arctic Owl (J) (Farnham/Hartley)	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	
Clyden (P) (Colquhoun)	16-1	16-1	14-1	16-1	15-1	
Prizelet (M) (Tomlinson/Bentley)	14-1	16-1	14-1	14-1	16-1	
Theatreworld (P) (P. O'Brien/Bentley)	16-1	14-1		14-1	16-1	
Neville's Place (M) (Johnson/Hartley)	10-1	14-1	16-1	14-1	12-1	
Drum Bay (P) (Cox/Hartley)	20-1	14-1	14-1	16-1	14-1	
Swain Of Wexham (J) (Gordon/Hartley)	16-1	20-1	20-1	16-1	16-1	
Prizelet (M) (Tomlinson/Bentley)	10-1	20-1	20-1	16-1	16-1	
Great Beauty (P) (Armstrong/Hartley)	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1	20-1	
Whisper (Hawley) (J) (Cox/Hartley)	20-1	20-1		20-1	20-1	
Yorkshire (P) (Cox/Hartley)	20-1	20-1	16-1	20-1	20-1	
Exquisite Heights (J) (Farnham/Hartley)	16-1	16-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	
Juniper (J) (Gordon/Hartley)	20-1	20-1	14-1	16-1	20-1	
Lawrence (John Barry/Hartley)	20-1	20-1	14-1	20-1	20-1	
Twicken (P) (Cox/Hartley)				20-1		

(Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 & 4th, Wednesday, 16 August * - with a run)

4	-10000	KOLBY (H) Baywatch/Snow Globes L A Bailey 9 D.	J Portner B 8
5	-00000	PORCELLINO (L) The Game Show/Pamper N Barker 9 D.	O Holstad 2
6	-00000	BAYWATCH #9 Rough Connection/D L Gable 8 D.	K Feltore 4 B
7	-00000	TWILIGHT #9 K H Rogers & Miss A Rugged J Heydn Jones 8 T.	A Muegler 6
8	-00000	CULDEHEAD (H) The Game Show/Pamper N Barker 9 D.	K Jones 2 T
9	-00000	SPRING BRIDES#1 (H) Newmarket Connections L A Allen 8 P.	N Cardillo 1
10	-00000	SIBBONVILLE (H) Love Loud/Rough Outing O S L Parent 6 T.	J Carroll 12 B
11	-30004	SPRING THAMES (H) A J Wyrm-Walsh M Deeks 8 B.	Dale Gibson 10 B
12	-00000	THE CULDEHEAD (H) The Game Show/Pamper N Barker 9 D.	R Jones 2 T
13	-00004	NOAH'S ARCADE (H) (Dunsmuir) Ring W Kemp 7 P.	J Whiston 10 B
		-13 declared -	

BETTING: \$1 Odds Master, 1-14 Spring Braces, 7-1 Kolby, Sleepy Times, 6-1 Baywatch, Patsy Cuthbert, 1-1 Quade, 13-1 other.
'99F: Fed L A 383 J Weaver 5-6 for 19 (Mashed) down 7 (T) ran

FORM GUIDE

Miss Stearns: Mid-level decline has been in midlows from 51 to 71 (probably best effort over 71) on soft by head of 2' on hardscap debut at Thirk #6. Plenty to prove for Mr Glynn! Looks heavily treated on the year's form, found 18 in demand at Beverly (7) missed in June. Third on all-weather fastest start.

Mr Glynn: In good form. Still a bit off his second of 8 in Padcar #6, good to soft in June and hearted fast back of luck nose. Uncertain leader on first run at 71. Kolby: Chances on two of five starts since last he was in a B seller at Musselburgh.

Percellatone: Inconsistent material, but was third of five in handicaps at Brighton (7 good) in June and is now off a 760 lower mark. Acts on soft ground.

Princess Margaret: A very good horse who has been a consistent performer. Broader here (84 good to firm). May lead, efforts since and best thirds of 1m for first time since reappearance.

Ranunculus: An also-an all starts so far, best effort this season when 12th/lengthy 7f in 1m maiden (88 good to firm) at Fakenham. Will bottom six off 840 highest last time.

Patsy Cullerton: Her winning sprinter as 2yo. Very little sign of retaining that ability, and she may have lost it by now.

Spring Breeze: One of 6 races before on all-weather, runner-up in steeple and claimed in spring. Comparable form where fourth of 20 in handicap at Newcastle (7 good).

Staggy: Has won 75% of his races over hurdles, but has been disappointing recently, showing ability in small fields on first two but slower than in handicaps on last three.

Snapney Thyme: Chances on second of 19 in Gwentley school (71 good to soft) on turf at Salisbury.

Tam: Second of 8 in climber at Mississauga (J7, soft) in June when visored for the first time. Only creditable effort since was on the all-weather Niagara Falls 25-29 (J7, soft) in July. He is still the mark and has been placed only twice. Usually starts at 50-1 or over, what tells us our story.

VERDICT: None of these have what could be described as strong claims, but there are relatively few negative points about SPRING BEACON. That is partly because she has been in the hands of the best of breeders. Her fourth-place finish in a bag fed in Newcastle over the trip last time may well prove good enough. Penelope and Daylight may prove best of the rest.

3.15 **AYR FLOWER SHOW CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS D)**
 As 60-100 lbs of Penalty Value \$3,444

1	65000	ALYRS ALIGHT (H) (D) Mrs Stacey K James	4-95	J Fallon
2	5406	STANDAL STAK (1) (D) Prof. P. J. Goss	4-95	A. Cullum
3	4200	INDIAN TAIL (2nd D) (D) Harry Hildy & Helen B92	4-95	Paul Edgley 2
4	5-1	LONG SIEGE (1) (D) Mrs Dan Brown & Gordon C 39.1	4-95	L. Denton 1
5	10-50	FLYING STRIP (7) (D) Mrs J. & J. Brown C 39.9	4-95	R. Winston (D)

6-5 Goodwin -

FORM GUIDE

HYPERION	
2.00 I Can't Remember 2.30 CHUNTO (map)	3 3500 DANA
3.00 Datshehah 3.30 Fast Forward Fred (map)	4 0450 SANDY
Longwick Lead 4.30 ENTROPY (nb) 5.00 Tikopia	5 0300 CELEST
	6 0000 IN THE
	7 0400 DASH
	8 0300 B
	9 0500 KUNIA
	10 0600 NANCY
	11 0430 PEGGY
	12 0500 CHUNTO
	13 0500 VELVE
	14 0500 BEA
	15 0006 SHAR

GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Straight course - far side, Round course - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Course 1: 2m NW of city near A431. Both station 2m. ADMIS-
SION: 12c; Tickets: 25c; Silver Ring: 3c; Course 12: CAR
PARK: Centre of course 15 for car park driver and 22 for each

2.00 I can't Remember	2.30 CHUNTO (nap)	3	34-000	CZECH
3.00 Dahshah	3.30 Fast Forward	4	60-000	IN THE
Longwick Lad	4.30 Entropy (nb)	5	00-000	GOVERN
	5.00 Tikopia	6	50-000	ECLA-
		7	05-00	CLAN-

GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Straight course - far side. Round course - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

2.00 2m NW city near M31 Bath station 2m. ADMINISTRATION: Club C3; Tattersall C3; Silver Ring C5; Course E2. CAR PARK: Centre of course D5 for car plus driver and C2 for each

2.00 AUGUST SELLING STAKES (CLASS F)
£3,000 added 1m

0465081 I CAN'T REMEMBER (49) (M) Pipo 498... In Balaena 7
0465082 ROYAL CHARGE (49) (M) Pipo 498... R Hughes 3
0465083 THE GREEN GARDEN (9) (CZ) W Muir 498... Martin Dwyer 1
0465084 HASTATE (27) (L) R Pipo 498... S Sweeney 5 8

10	00000	LITTLE MIMP (R) K Bute 335	5	N Colman 65 A B
11	00000	STREET SAGE (R) S Jone 363	5	N Colman 71
BETTING: 1-11	Can't Remember, 7-2 Bute, 3-10 Baley, 5-9 Gray	6			
7-11	Parson Sledge, 10-4 Private Seal, 11-7 others	6			
FORM VEE					
<p>Bosher is back in racing in good form and handicapper ratings, but his most recent efforts have been none too encouraging and first-time blunders are out-petting. I can't remember and Baley Spanney have to be feared as they have proved they are worth the odds of 11-7 and 10-4 respectively. Baley is able to out them all down to the last. She ran well at Leicester last week and can make the most of the jumps of weight she carries.</p>					
<p>BETTING: 1-11 Can't Remember, 7-2 Bute, 3-10 Baley, 5-9 Gray, 7-11 Parson Sledge, 10-4 Private Seal, 11-7 others</p>					

3	34000	CASIES (TAC) DAY (11)	L Garter 3 99	S Carson 7 (7)
4	50000	IN THE STOCKS (11)	W Collier 4 98	M Roberts 5
5	50000	THE CHICKEN (11)	C Grier 3 99	S Carson 7 (7)
6	5000	ELA-ANDRILLA (26)	G Lewis 3 99	N Day 2
7	0500	COUNTRY STRIKE (11)	R Hanson 3 93	Dave O'Neill 5
8	0006	NANCY MALONEY (13)	Mis G Walker 3 92	P Robinson 18
9	00-23	POLONAISE PRINCE (6)	P Matus 5 92	S Sanders 14 V
10	00-036	CHUNITO (11)	P Hobbs 3 91	T Spain 4 9
11	00-056	VELVET JONES (1)	G Charles Jones 5 6	KF Stuchlik 6 (5)
12	500-05	BEAUCATHER (6)	D Storer 4 82	M Pollard 6 (3)
13	0-0006	SHARP FELLOW (24)	Balding 3 81	S Whitworth 6 V

FORM VERDICT
MAGICAL DANCER probably should have won at Epsom last time and will be difficult to beat off the same mark today. An improved show from **Beauvatcher** is not out of the question and she could represent some each-way value.

8	DANIELS & HIGGS (8)	1	Hills 8
9	DEADLY NIGHTSHADE (8)	1	N Poland (5) 14
10	DAVIDSON & HILL (8)	1	P R Hooley (8) 14
000	FEAR (8)	1	W Higgs (8) 10
00	GRACE MELBURY (8)	1	M Bingham (8) 1
00	LUGANA LADY (8)	1	J Culen 5
00	LUGANA LADY (8)	1	J Hays Jones 8
0006	PRICE OF PASSION (18)	1	S Whitburn 15
000	PRICE OF PASSION (18)	1	S Whitburn 11
0000	REVENGE (18)	1	T Spauld 2
0006	REVENGE (18)	1	T Spauld 11
00	TILIA (8)	1	Dane O'Neill 7
00	TILIA (8)	1	S Sanders 11
00	VALLENTINE ANNA (25)	1	F Norton 6

15 - declined

NOTING: 2-1 Delahay, 7-2 Bayard, 10-11 Delahay, 10-11 Brackston Sage, 10-11 Delahay, 12-1 Sage, 10-11 Delahay, 10-11 Delahay

3.30 PULTENEY HANDICAP (CLASS D)
£5,000 added 2m 1f 34yds

6-0251	SHAMPOOED (g2) R Dicks 4 9 10	J Field 3
6-040	DANEGOLD (4) G M Channon 8 9 5	A Ebbiley 6 4
5/522	FAST FORWARD FRED (gt) L Montague Hall 7 8 3	A Clark 1
7-045	AMBER WALLEY (14) D Williams 7 6 2	A Whelan 2

moderate staying contest. **SHAMPOOED** has to be respected in her British debut, but **FAST FORWARD FRED** is going to be right way now after missing all of last year and can continue to make up for lost time. His second to Sharif here last time got a boost when the third Woody's Boy went in at Newmarket on Friday (the race in which Danegold was only seventh of eight) and despite the revised lemma he can confirm earlier Choptaw superiority over Mu-Tadil.

00000	LONGWICH LAD (2)	(C) M W 586	Alarito Dryer 4
00000	WUOLSHOLE (4)	(C) R Guss 698	P Robinson 8
00000	BEAU VENTURE (8)	(C) M J 218 P 88 5	S Sprale 3
00000	BRANDISH BEAR (2)	(C) M B Brandish 492	J Quisen 7
00000	PAUL TERRY (1)	(C) D Day 438	C Pace (S) 6
00000	WALLMAN (1)	(C) M J 218 P 88 5	S Sprale 3
00000	WITTIVITY (1)	R Hodges 438	R Cudde 11
00000	SONGHEIST (4)	(C) M Saunders 593	J Field 9
00000	INTASHAHS (6)	(C) D Hays 698	S Dornme 12
00000	LONGWICH (1)	(C) K Ivory 390	N Pollard (S) 1 V
00000	WOLFEIA (3)	(C) J J Noughton 490	S Sanders 5
12 declared			
00000 22 Levellad, 54 Mennelad, 54 Soughed, 71 Brimble Dues, 10000 161 Ben Venturad, 375 Jern, 10000 174 edelad			

30 NUNNEY NURSERY HANDICAP
(CLASS E) £4,000 added 2YO 5f 161yds

106	CHORAL EXPRESS (11) W Haur 97	J Field 2
4444	SANTORINI (1) R Hollands 96	P M Quinn 7 6
5230	ARBOR CALLS (11) H Home 95	S Sanders 5

FORM VERDICT
TANDRE can make the journey from Staffordshire
shire. He won nicely at Thrap last time, following an eye-
thing about the previous time, and has further improvement
in. There are question marks over most of the others ex-
Addition, who could be the one for the forecast.

630 PNY HORNBEE (19) (CJ) 1 Bldg 10 0 11 Martin Doyle 5
630 ALABAMA (USA) (2) W Mur 5 8 8. O'Neill 6
634 HILL FARM DANCES (10) (CJ) W Enbrook 7 7 12
one Wanda (R) 1

7 - declared -
632 7-1 PNC Farm Dances, 6-1 M's All's 5-2 Alabam, 5-1 Pny Horne.
depts, 7-1 Hill Farm, Javna Shrine

FORM VERDICT

deceit is not the hallmark of many of these, but, ALABAMA
be worth cautioning upon in trip. He is ruled by middle
ances on the all-weather and the handicapper has been
in dropping him 7th for two runs over what are probably
quite trips for him nowadays. Javna Shrine is stopping

RACING SERVICES

0891 261 7		
LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS		
AYR	971	981
BATH	972	982
ALL COURSES RESULTS		
0891 261 970		

Month	C	H	L	S	T
September 1991	4.1	4.1	7.2	4.1	4.1

Alcohol	8-2	7-2	7-2	4-1	4-1
Pen de Mirocres	9-2	9-2	5-1	5-1	4-1
August Manager	5-3	7-2	8-3	5-1	5-1
High Premium	13-2	7-1	8-4	7-1	7-1
Impulsive Air	8-1	9-1	8-1	5-2	9-1
Riviera	10-1	8-1	3-1	9-1	10-1
Q Factor	12-1	11-7	12-1	11-3	12-1
Magic Mile	12-1	14-1	12-1	12-1	12-1

Each way a little the odds, please 1, 2, 3

8 000- LIBERALIS (421) G Charles-Jones
20 00006 LITTE F MIB (201) K Burke 3 8 6

FORM VERDICT

Booster is best in according to officials. In his most recent efforts have been none. First-time blinkers are off-putting. 1 Cambray Spinnery have to be feared as are still capable of winning, but PIRATE able to cut them all down to size. SP last week and can make the most she is available. I wish them to try.

5	N Pollard (5) 2	3	552	CORN
	N Galloway (5) 4 B	4		DAHSE

4	DRINK
5	DEAD
6	DIABOL
7	000 FEARL
8	00 GRACE
9	0 LUGAN
10	0006 PRICE
11	SEREN
12	00065 SISTER
13	00 THIA
14	TURCK
15	0 VALAN

BETTING: 3-1 Deke
Owens 100 to 1

W (22) M Fotherston-Godley E H. ... H Hughes T.
L 1875 p 71

LIGHTSHADE D Bloorth 8 11 N Pollard (5)
 LUDY R Hodges 8 11 P P Murphy (3) 11
 LUSH (32) V Soape 8 11 J Cochran 11
 MURRY (34) M Blarshed 8 11 J Quinn
 N (24) D Haydn Jones 8 11 S Drowne 11
 PASSION (18) D Atterburne 8 11 S Whitworth
 P B Paling 8 11 T Soape
 PACE (14) Mrs N Duckell 8 11 A Daly (3) 9
 Parnon 8 11 Dams O'Neill
 Guest 8 11 S Sanders 11
 PARNNA (23) D Haydn Jones 8 11 F Norton
 - 15 declared -
 22 Baynes, 4-1 Comarova, 10-1 Brockton Sages
 Sledge Patricia Trice 15-1 Athos

1 003021 LEVELLED (S) (D) M. Channon 4 p
2 00500 LONGWICK LAD (S) (D) J. P. M. M. M.

2	100500	LOWMEADOW EAGLE (21) (1) (1) W M
3	33210	HOUSEHOLD (4) (C) R Guest 6
4	253000	BEAU VENTURE (8) (C) (2) B Pa
5	145200	BRAMBLE BEAR (21) (C) (2) B
6	21480	FACILE TIGRE (11) (C) (5) Dow 3
7	602600	MALIBU MAN (21) (C) 5 Wheeler
8	040300	NUTTWITTY (18) R Hodges 4 93
9	100000	SONGSHEET (4) (C) M Saunders
10	-0200	INTASHA(45) (C) D Hays Jones
11	045300	LONG ISLAND (13) K Hays 3 90
12	330-00	NOFALEA (33) (C) T J Naughton 4
- 12 declared -		
BETTING: 9-2 Lovell, 5-1 Blossholm, 6-1 Scott		
Loser Picked: 16-1 Beau Ventura, 6-10 Tiger		

4 5-0512 JAVA ST
5 090630 PRY HON

[illegible]

(24) (BF) P Eccles 7 8 12 N Collam (5) 3 B
/15/ (CFT) 1 Baltham 10 8 11 Minton 2

FORM VERDICT
 hallmark of many of these, but ALSAHIB
 was upped in trip. He is sailed by middle
 weather and the handicapper has been
 right for two runs over what are probably
 the best horses nowadays. Jarvis Shrine is stopping

...the

Fifth Test: A fast medium bowler who is anything but ordinary was the catalyst for a long-awaited celebration

Fraser a model of rare modesty

England's Trojan was instrumental in the series victory but as usual he shunned the glory. By Henry Blofeld

FOR THREE overs on this dramatic last morning, Angus Fraser gave a display of pure, unassuming professionalism which will not often be equalled, let alone surpassed, and it was so unobtrusive that it may have gone unnoticed by many people. Of course, he took the important wicket of Allan Donald and hardly anyone in the country will have failed to notice that.

He bowled three overs from the Kirkstall Lane End coming down that long, angled run, looking, as always, as if the cares of the world were upon his shoulders. With South Africa as desperate for runs as he was for wickets, he bowled three faultless maidens.

The pressure must have been as acute as even he can have experienced, although those two Test Matches in Port of Spain at the start of the year will have been useful practice. He now bowled his first over to Shaun Pollock. Every ball was on the spot, asking questions of the batsman's defensive technique.

His second over was to Donald. Again, each ball was on a length, probing a slightly more vulnerable than technique than Pollock's. There was nothing in the least stereotypical about his bowling either; every ball was different and one could sense the relief in Donald at the end of the over that he had survived the ordeal.

After each over, Fraser took his sleeveless sweater from the umpire and nudged off to fine leg. There was no visible emotion; no excitement, no disappointment, no eager anticipation either. He was doing a job he has done all his life and which he now does better than anyone else. It was another day at the office and nothing was going to distract him.

Back he trudged for his third over and Donald was still the batsman. In he came again, plodding at the double down that well worn route, like an old fashioned policeman closing in for an arrest. Over came the

arm, forward went Donald, the ball thudded into Alec Stewart's gloves and the ecstatic appeal erupted to the heavens.

Up went the umpire's finger and Fraser allowed himself a red-faced grin as he was submerged by his colleagues. But there was still work to be done and he did not waste too much time in celebration and by the time the last man, Makhaya Ntini, had arrived at the crease, Fraser was back at his mark waiting in an orderly manner rather than champing at the bit.

Ntini kept out the five remaining balls and Fraser returned to fine leg ready to do it all over again in the over after the next. It never came to that, as Darren Gough accounted for Ntini with the help of another raised umpire's finger that set the bloodhounds on to the replay trail, doing all they could to find a reason why it was not out. Fraser galloped to the middle to join in the celebrations but even at this moment one got the impression that an inner voice was telling him not to overstep the mark. As the crowd invaded the grounds and Fraser and the others ran off, he will have been satisfied with his morning's work of 3-3-0-1. But, again, nothing over the top.

This year he has taken 31 wickets for England, 27 of them in the West Indies to equal John Snow's record for a series, and now 34 against South Africa - 18 in the last two Tests - and to think many people would have played Alan Mullally ahead of him at Trent Bridge, where he took five in each innings.

Has there ever been a more consummate professional than Angus Fraser or a more admirable cricketer? He received just an honourable mention in the final roll call of the players of the series during the presentations. That will not have worried him. As he fastened his seat-belt before the drive back to London, he will have been content with the satisfaction which comes from knowing that a job has been well done.

'I am keeping my fingers crossed'

By TED CORBETT

ANGUS FRASER, England's mournful-looking fast medium bowler, admitted he had reason to look miserable as he bowled the overs that set up England's victory over South Africa.

"I hurt my back sometime on the fourth day and I had to keep going on a mixture of adrenalin, a couple of pain-killers, a sense of the occasion and the cheers of the crowd," he said after taking the wicket of Allan Donald.

"I don't know how it will pan out. I am not expecting to drop out of the one-day triangular tournament. I am hoping that a bit of rest, treatment and the

enjoyment of this victory will bring about a cure. I face a long car drive back home and I am keeping my fingers crossed that I do no more damage to my back. I have not had back trouble since I was a young bowler but it usually comes along when you are tired as I was yesterday. Then you get into bad habits and to generate the same amount of pace you use bits of your body that aren't used to taking that amount of strain.

"Last night I did bugger all, frankly. I had a bite to eat, a drink and a hot bath to relax. It seemed to work. It was too important to go out or do anything exotic."



Spectators who turned up for the denouement at Headingley yesterday crowd around the England players as they all enjoy the home triumph

David Ashdown

More hi-tech help needed for the men in white coats

Incessant appeals and the introduction of the 'super slo-mo' replay have put more pressure on umpires than ever before. By David Llewellyn

THEY ARE referred to as the men in the middle, but perhaps out on the cutting edge would be a more accurate description. The umpires, cricket's unsung heroes, are in the thick of the heated debate about the relative merits of the human eye, ear and judgement over the marvels of television's hi-tech, all-seeing, all-knowing camera lenses.

The way things are going, with mistakes being highlighted and seemingly on the increase in this latest Cornhill Test series, there is every likelihood that the men in white coats will be taken away by those men in white coats.

Action replays were bad enough. Then they were slowed down and highlighted the odd error of judgement. Now, with super "slo-mo" cameras and the bit of optical technology which homes in on the ball, magnifies it and suggests whether it has or has not made contact with the edge of a bat or pad, the poor old umpire's decision is no longer final, merely questionable.

For example, when Michael Atherton departed leg before to Allan Donald to the first ball on Saturday morning, television replays showed that he had got an inside edge on the ball and should not have been given out. Doubts were expressed about several dismissals right up to the final ball of the match, when Makhaya Ntini was given out leg before to a Darren Gough delivery that some said was missing leg stump.

A widely held view is that the standard of umpiring is no worse or better than it has been in the past. The difference is that technology is now capable of identifying errors.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, said yesterday: "We can't comment on umpiring decisions. Some go for you and some go against you. There are games when you feel they go for the opposition but that is the nature of the game and you have just got to accept it. When we've cooled down we'll reflect on what happened in the past."

Cronje has been asked by the United Cricket Board of South Africa to give his views on raising umpiring levels in world cricket. Ali Bacher, the Board's managing director, said yesterday that the game had a "major problem" with umpiring. He added: "It is not in the interests of world cricket to have it there. We must sort it out."

The big question is whether the game should extend the role of the third umpire, who sits in the stand viewing a television monitor showing various camera angles on an incident. The third umpire can currently adjudicate on stumpings, run-outs and catches where there is a question of whether or not the ball carried to the fielder. Now there are suggestions that he should also rule on contentious lbw dismissals.

Professor Tim Noakes, of the Sports Sciences Institute at the University of Cape Town, is convinced that high-speed cameras, placed in line with both sets of stumps and when linked to a computer, could be used to anticipate the path the ball might have taken if it had not hit the batsman's pad. Cameras at square leg would also be able

to reveal how high up the pad the ball struck.

One of the biggest problems is when the batsman gets the thinnest of inside edges off his bat and on to the pad. That is when the umpire's ears and eyes can let him down and television technology can come up with a definitive answer.

When television replays exposed the human frailties of the umpire Mervyn Kitchen during the fourth Test at Trent Bridge, the former Somerset opener, having owned up to a couple of mistakes, announced that he was thinking of retiring. He

was inundated with hate mail and offers of special prescription glasses and hearing aids.

Barry Dudenstun, a first-class umpire since 1984 who has stood in two Tests, says that one of the problems is that today's teams make many more appeals than their predecessors. "It's simple arithmetic," he said. "The more appeals there are the more likely they are to be mistakes."

He takes a pragmatic view of the television issue. "I'd like to see the whole thing [hi-tech television replays] disappear," Dudenstun said. "Unfortunately

they are not going to go away. It creates interest, as for example when the third umpire is called into play to decide on a run-out. But if the technology is to stay it should be extended to cover as much as possible."

The other question that the game's authorities might need to investigate is the system of neutral umpires, which was introduced five years ago by the International Cricket Council, the game's world governing body, after some touring sides felt that they had been victims of "home" umpiring decisions.

The plan was for one home umpire and one neutral to stand in every Test around the world. Representation for any country was restricted to the ICC's stipulated maximum of four. England are the only country to have had the full complement since its inception. All the other Test playing countries have two umpires.

It has long been a widely held belief that English umpires are the fairest and Clive Lloyd, the former Test captain and manager of the West Indies, was once moved to say that he did not want a neutral umpire, he wanted two English umpires because they were the best.

One umpire, who wished to remain nameless, said: "It was disgraceful the way they hampered Merv [Kitchen] when the guy at the other end [the New Zealander Steve Dunn] made five or six times as many mistakes as Merv."

It is certainly true that English umpires are more experi-

enced than some of those on the international panel. When Glamorgan went on a pre-season tour of Zimbabwe not so long ago, their coach driver was Russell Tiffin, who stood in the first Test of this series at Edgbaston. As a measure of how little opportunity there is for overseas umpires to gain experience, the first Test in which Tiffin officiated in his native Zimbabwe was also his first first-class match.

Another problem is that many neutral umpires, who often stand in only one match, are out of season when they arrive in England. Javed Akhtar, criticised for his performance in the fifth Test, stood in only one "warm-up" match before Headingley when he officiated in a three-day Second XI game between Middlesex and Nottinghamshire at Usbridge.

Clive Hitchcock, the International Cricket Council's operations manager, defends the system. "When an umpire is going to officiate out of season, it is ICC policy that they have one or two matches in which to acclimatise themselves. The umpires are happy with the arrangement," he said.

Whatever happens over the umpiring issue, it is a problem that will be with the game for a further year because the playing conditions and code of conduct are already in place, following May's ICC's cricket committee meeting. The regulations come into force from 1 September and last for a year.

Many hope changes will eventually be made, with more TV technology being harnessed. It seems only this will take what has become an intolerable burden off the shoulders of those men in white coats.



Hansie Cronje confers with Javed Akhtar

Allsport

ENGLAND V SOUTH AFRICA TEST SERIES AVERAGES

BATTING									
ENGLAND									
Name	P	I	NO	HS	Runs	Ave	100s	50s	
M A Butcher	3	6	0	116	338	56.33	1	2	
M A Atherton	5	10	1	103	493	54.77	1	3	
A J Stewart	5	10	1	164	465	51.66	1	1	
R D B Croft	3	6	4	37*	90	45.00	0	0	
N Hussain	5	10	0	105	347	34.70	1	2	
M Ramprakash	5	9	1	67*	249	31.12	0	0	
A F Giles	1	2	1	16	17	17.00	0	0	
D G Cork	5	9	1	36	99	13.27	0	0	
G P Thorpe	3	6	0	43	63	10.50	0	0	
I D K Salisbury	2	3	0	23	27	9.00	0	0	
D Gough	4	6	1	16*	43	8.60	0	0	
A R C Fraser	5	8	2	17	39	6.50	0	0	
M A Ealham	2	4	0	8	24	6.00	0	0	
N V Knight	1	2	0	11	12	6.00	0	0	
A Flintoff	2	3	0	17	17	5.66	0	0	
S P James	1	2	0	10	10	5.00	0	0	
G A Hick	2	3	0	6	9	3.00	0	0	
D W Headley	1	2	0	2	3	1.50	0	0	

SOUTH AFRICA									
Name	P	I	NO	HS	Runs	Ave	100s	50s	
W J Cronje	7	1	1	126	401	66.83	1	4	
L Klusener	3	3	1	57	108	54.00	0	1	
J N Rhodes	5	7	0	117	367	52.42	1	2	
D J Cullinan	5	7	0	132	294	42.00	1	1	
G Kirsten	5	8	1	78	287	41.00	0	3	
S M McMillan	5	8	1	210	257	36.71	1	0	
S M Pollock	1	2	0	54	61	30.50	0	1	
S M Elworthy	4	6	1	50	146	29.20	0	1	
A M Bacher	1	2	0	48	58	29.00	0	0	
M V Boucher	1	1	0	22	22	22.00	0	0	
G F Liebenberg	5	6	0	35	84	14.00	0	0	
A A Donald	4	6	0	21	59	9.83	0	0	
M Ntini	5	6	3	7*	29	9.66	0	0	
P R Adams	2	2	1	4*	4	4.00	0	0	
P R Adams	4	4	1	6*	10	3.33	0	0	

BOWLING									
ENGLAND									
Name	Overs	Mins	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Best SW	10W		
A R C Fraser	203.3	55	492	24	20.50	5-42	3	1	

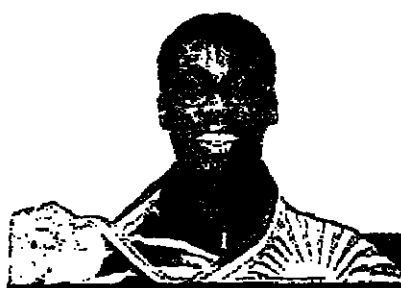
SOUTH AFRICA									
Name	Overs	Mins	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Best SW	10W		
D Gough	130.5	26	388	17	22.82	6-42	1	0	
D G Cork	174.4	29	573	18	31.83	6-119	1	0	
D W Headley	22	2	69	2	34.50	2-69	0	0	
M A Ealham	38	10	105	2	52.50	1-50	0	0	
A F Giles	36	7	106	1	106.0	1-106	0	0	
A Flintoff	35	4	112	1	112.0	1-52	0	0	
M A Butcher	14	4	37	0	—	—	0	0	
I D K Salisbury	25	3	106	0	—	—	0	0	
R D B Croft	87	20	211	0	—	—	0	0	
M Ramprakash	5	0	17	0	—	—	0	0	

THE END OF A LONG WAIT

ENGLAND'S FIVE-TEST SERIES RECORD SINCE BEATING AUSTRALIA IN 1986-87

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	Captain
1987	Pakistan	Home	0-1	M Gatting
1988	West Indies	Home	0-4	M Gatting
1989	Australia	Home	0-4	D Gower
1989-90	West Indies	Away	2-1	G Gooch
1990-91	Australia	Away	0-3	A Lamb
1991	West Indies	Home	2-2	G Gooch
1992	Pakistan	Home	1-2	G Gooch
1993	Australia	Home	1-4	G Gooch
1993-94	West Indies	Away	3-1	M Atherton
1994-95	Australia	Away	3-1	M Atherton
1995	West Indies	Home	2-2	M Atherton
1995-96	South Africa	Away	1-0	M Atherton
1997	Australia	Home	3-2	M Atherton
1998	South Africa	Home	2-1	A Stewart

Compiled by Richard Poin



SPORT

MALCOLM ON THE FAST TRACK P22 • PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE GUIDE P21

Jubilation at last for England

BY DEREK PRINGLE
at HeadingleyEngland 230 and 240
South Africa 252 and 195
England win match by 23 runs
and five-Test series 2-1

WITH EXPECTANCY high and admission free, Headingley was almost full yesterday as England's bowlers took 42 balls to take the two wickets that secured both the Fifth Test match and the series. When the umpire Javed Akhtar raised his finger to end Makhaya Ntini's brief innings, a 12-year drought at Test level was ended. To those who wondered if such things would only happen in the next millennium, England's first major series victory since Mike Gatting's Ashes win in 1986-87 had finally materialised.

The release from this agonisingly tense Test was merciful and the players experienced a whole gamut of emotions. After the headlong rush for souvenir stumps, the mood in the dressing-room was eerily calm: either England were expecting to win, or they could not yet quite believe they had done it.

For Alec Stewart, the England captain, the feeling was clearly "very special". Watched by his parents here on Saturday and Sunday, Stewart completed something of a family double with this 2-1 series win. The last occasion that England won a five-match series, father Mickey was the team coach.

"As captain, my style has been to have an open dressing-room where players are able to believe in their own ability and not be fazed by the international environment," he said. "To succeed, you need self-belief."

Stewart ended the series as boldly as he started it, and there was no suggestion of giving Shaun Pollock any easy singles to get Allan Donald on strike - a tactic Bob Willis used at the MCG in 1982, when Allan Border, shepherding his No 11, Jeff Thomson, steered Australia to within four runs of victory before one IT Botham stepped in to resolve the matter.

As expected from one who has spent so long in the wings, there were wobbles, and after Edgbaston it took England two Tests to compete. Stewart is still a little tactically transparent, but this is a minor fault that will be eradicated with experience.

For the moment his strength lies in the support and encouragement he has given his players. During England's mad 15 minutes on Friday - when three dropped catches might have cost them everything - he kept heads up and minds focused. Unlike his predecessor, Michael



South Africa's Allan Donald (second left) vents his frustration after the England bowler Angus Fraser (third right) claimed his wicket at Headingley yesterday

David Ashdown

Atherton, you never forget Stewart is there.

One slight downside to the day was that Atherton, who has spent 83 Tests waiting for such a moment, was not on the field to savour the momentous occasion. As much the architect of the series win as anyone, he has been suffering from a bout of food poisoning and missed all but the last wicket (though not, apparently, the champagne) when the taxi returning him from a specialist became caught in a traffic jam.

Not wanting to distract attention from the field of play where the real event took place, Atherton typically played the whole thing down. As England's longest serving captain, there was not the slightest hint of his feeling slightly aggrieved at his successor's instant glory.

"I had a little success as captain," he said, "but once I'd passed the cap-

taincy on to Alec, I've not given it a second thought. I'm delighted his first series has ended in victory and I'm delighted to have played a part. He's obviously done a good job."

Named as England's man of the series, Atherton's form with the bat has been a crucial factor. His new-ball duels against Donald and Pollock set the series' uncompromising tone. Finding an opening partner has also helped. Mark Butcher can have earned no greater praise than Atherton's claim that the Surrey left-hander has been the "find of the year".

The turning point was Old Trafford, where England somehow clung on to a draw. Had South Africa won and gone 2-0 up, England could not have gone on to win the series.

Hansie Cronje, the tourists' captain, confirmed it was the moment the pendulum began to swing

England's way. "It was day four at Old Trafford that Atherton and Stewart took the win away from us," he said. "After that, we just couldn't put big scores together to put them under pressure."

Atherton, never one to mince words, was even more succinct: "South Africa's failure to kill us off there cost them dear."

For England there were no such problems yesterday. Headingley has witnessed many great moments down the years. Yet if the Botham and Willis Test here in 1981 is remembered for its logic-defying feats this one should be recalled for two teams who fought each other to a near standstill. Test cricket does not get much better and the final Test was a microcosm of a series that became taut with dramatic tension.

With the series in the balance, most would have spent an uneasy

night and Stewart later admitted to waking at least three or four times to ponder field settings. If the nerves were jangling after play had resumed, the first ball of the sixth over would have settled them.

Angus Fraser has played a titanic role in this series and it was fitting that his removal of Donald, to the faintest of edges, largely removed any aspirations the visitors may have entertained. Eleven balls later it was all over, as Ntini, put on strike by Pollock, walked across an in-swing from Darren Gough.

The wicket gave Gough 6 for 42 in front of his home crowd, and a Test best to savour. His performance was one of many heroic efforts on both sides. Mark Butcher's maiden Test hundred, which won him the man of the match, was all but matched by Nasser Hussain's 94 in the second innings, which was made

in the most testing circumstances, with Donald and Pollock never far from their aggressive best. Jonty Rhodes, too, played brilliantly and both Cronje and Brian McMillan deserve praise for their half-centuries.

Cloaked in cloud except on Sunday, this Headingley pitch was as unreliable as the weather forecasts that had promised a heat wave. But if testing conditions invariably provide close encounters, England are getting better at winning them.

With 14 weeks before the first Test in Australia, that is a heartening sign and, given that one or two fine tunings are made, the chances of the Ashes returning to these shores before the 21st century may not be the fanciful notion it seemed a month ago as England followed on at Old Trafford.

Henry Blofeld; more Test match reports, page 24

HEADINGLEY
SCOREBOARD

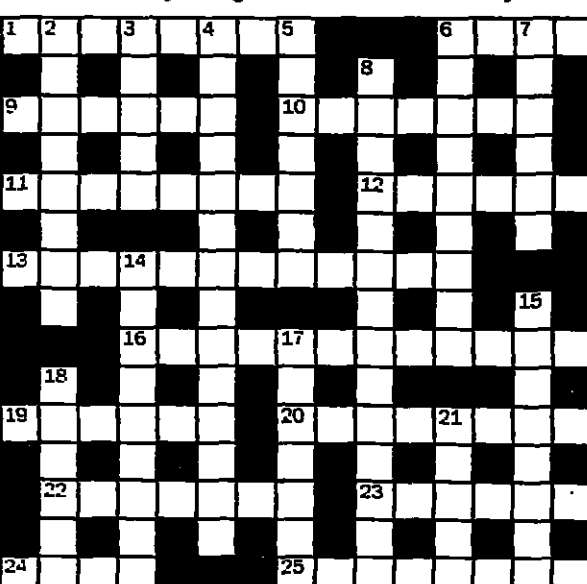
England won toss
ENGLAND - First innings 230 (M A Butcher 116, A Ntini 6-72)
SOUTH AFRICA - First innings 252 (WJ Gough 57, A R C Fraser 5-42)
ENGLAND - Second innings 240 (M Ntini 94, A Donald 5-71, S M Pollock 5-53)
SOUTH AFRICA - Second innings (completed)
Overnight 185 (for 8)
5 M Pollock not out
(107 min, 74 balls, 1 four)
A A Donald, S Stewart, B Fraser
(30 min, 22 balls)
M Ntini bow to Gough
(18 min, 8 balls)
Extras (66, m/c)
Total (327 min, 75 overs) 195
Fall (cont): 9-194 (Donald), 10-195 (Ntini)
Bowling: Gough 23-4-42-6 (nb1) 9-4-10-3, 4-14-0, 10-1-19-3; Fraser 23-4-50-3 (nb2) 3-28-2, 4-1-0-0, 7-1-14-0, 3-3-0-1; Gough 12-50-1-15-1-13-0, 6-0-19-1, 5-0-21-0; Pollock 4-0-13-0; Salisbury 9-0-34-0 (one spell each)
ENGLAND WON BY 23 RUNS
Umpires: Javed Akhtar and P Willey, TV replay umpire R E Palmer, Match referee Ahmed Ibrahim
Man of the match: M A Butcher. Australian P J W Altham. Players of the series: M A Atherton and A A Donald. Series adjudicators: R A Woodmer and D Lloyd.
Scoreboard compiled by Jo King

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3686, Tuesday 11 August

By Aelred

Monday's Solution



SPLENDID DISCOMFORT
O S O I H B R E
U T T E R A N C E S T A R T
A A V Y L Y S H
R U T H G U S T A R D P I N E
E E O R E A
U N I O N I O N R E C A P S
P A S A S V E R A
P R A C A S S H E B E A R
S O U D G K
P E R S U A S I O N B E A R
E E P G O U N
I N D I A S U P P R A T E S
N E G N V A O A
G O S T E A D Y C Y P R I U S

ACROSS

- 1 Eagle could be seen in this mad haste when flying (8)
- 6 Execute witch around noon (4)
- 9 Filthy little devil on Yorkshire river (6)
- 10 Lay Sean out to do post mortem? (7)
- 11 Electrical device for cooking the roast (8)
- 12 Hurled away something which must be cleared (6)
- 13 Woodworker retrained for the new technology? (7, 5)
- 16 Could be on the ropes in charge which is sound (12)
- 19 Chatter of fanciful rocky type? (16)
- 20 Out on limb I produce equation (8)
- 22 Woman accepts a round number as a receiver (7)
- 23 In year's time name to bring back hostility (6)
- 24 A company of ladies drink (4)
- 25 Settle in French self-catering? Never again (8)

DOWN

- 2 A marine daily takes one's comfortable seat
- 3 See scrap about game arising (5)
- 4 Trying to make people cross to your advantage (14)
- 5 Desperate doctor joins wine clubs (7)
- 6 Dance quickly there's magic to follow it (3, 6)
- 7 IOW feature almost wanting sewer (16)
- 8 Stick your pin in these correctly and you'll get money? (4, 10)
- 14 It is unknown, repeatedly black inside, and tiny (4, 5)
- 15 Toured north polar region running right out of instructions (8)
- 17 Space needed by pair to show affection (7)
- 18 Misleading picture of Irish rough game (6)
- 21 In which you'd have to take steps to get male to pulpit (5)

Stewart sends all the right messages

BY TED CORBETT

FOR ALL anyone in the John T's bar knew, the quiet group in the corner were a bunch of friends on a night out. Half a dozen young men in jeans and casual clothes. Wives in trouser suits. No one making a noise or creating a fuss. One or two smoking cigarettes. One reading a newspaper.

The scene was so normal that the few other people in the bar of the Marriott Hotel, not far from Leeds railway station, took little notice as the group ordered a drink or two. Several of the men had small meals from the snack menu - chilli con carne, pasta, salad, all the right stuff - and took them to one side while the rest sat around and chatted.

They were recognised by the other group in the bar. A bunch of rock musicians who had just finished their gig mumbled: "That's those England cricketers. Hicky, Salisbury, Stewart. They're meant to beat South Africa tomorrow, aren't they? You'd never think they'd

all those worries on their shoulders, would you?"

Perhaps that is one of the secrets of the success of this England team. They are a down-to-earth lot who are never likely to attract the wrong kind of publicity and, moreover, do not need to be told what is expected of them.

With two wickets to take but only 34 runs to play with, England were facing a day of high tension. Yet even before what was the most important session of play England have faced in recent years, the captain, Alec Stewart, did not feel the need to make an "up guards and at 'em" speech to his team.

Stewart, who once admitted that his team were "sick of the sound of my voice", said: "The lads knew what was wanted. Two wickets. No mistakes. Keep it simple. We sent the bowlers out for a practice just before the match and they came back and said how many people were watching. Otherwise just a normal day."

Angus Fraser, one of Eng-

land's bowling heroes, had treated the occasion in similar fashion. "What did I do last night?" he murmured after victory was complete yesterday. "Next to nothing, to be frank. A drink, a bit of food, off to the room and a hot bath to relax and get to sleep. At 33 you need your sleep."

Before the players had gone to bed last night, Fraser wandering out of the bar as he does on his shamble back to his bowling mark, one of the members of the rock band introduced his girlfriend. "Meet the bird," he said, setting political correctness momentarily to one side.

"Now, love, this is Stewie, Hicky, Sals, Butch, Corky and Goughy. We're going to win in the morning, aren't we lads?" She knew better. "Don't try it on wi' me," she said, Yorkshire as Ilkley Moor. "That's them going to bed early. More sense than to be hanging round here drinking like you lot when there's a big match on."

"Wi' sense like that they'll win in t'morning. You'll see."

...AND WHEN ENGLAND LAST WON A TEST SERIES

In February 1987 England completed their successful Ashes tour of Australia, their last major Test series victory before yesterday's win over South Africa. That year...

Everton won the First Division title by nine points. Liverpool finished runners-up. Coventry City secured a 3-2 victory over Tottenham in the FA Cup Final thanks to Gary Mabbutt's own-goal in extra-time.

Halifax triumphed 19-18 over St Helens in rugby league's Challenge Cup final.

There were fears that fencing would have to be erected around Twickenham following the abandonment of the John Player Cup final, two minutes from time, due to a pitch invasion. Bath won the match, beating Wasps 19-12. Pat Cash became the first Australian to win Wimbledon since John Newcombe in 1971. Cash

comfortably disposed of Ivan Lendl in three sets.

Nick Faldo added weight to his billing as the world's top golfer when he won the Open. And in that month of February...

Terry Walke and three others were held hostage in Beirut. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced plans for radical poll tax reforms.

British Telecom workers ended their two-week strike.

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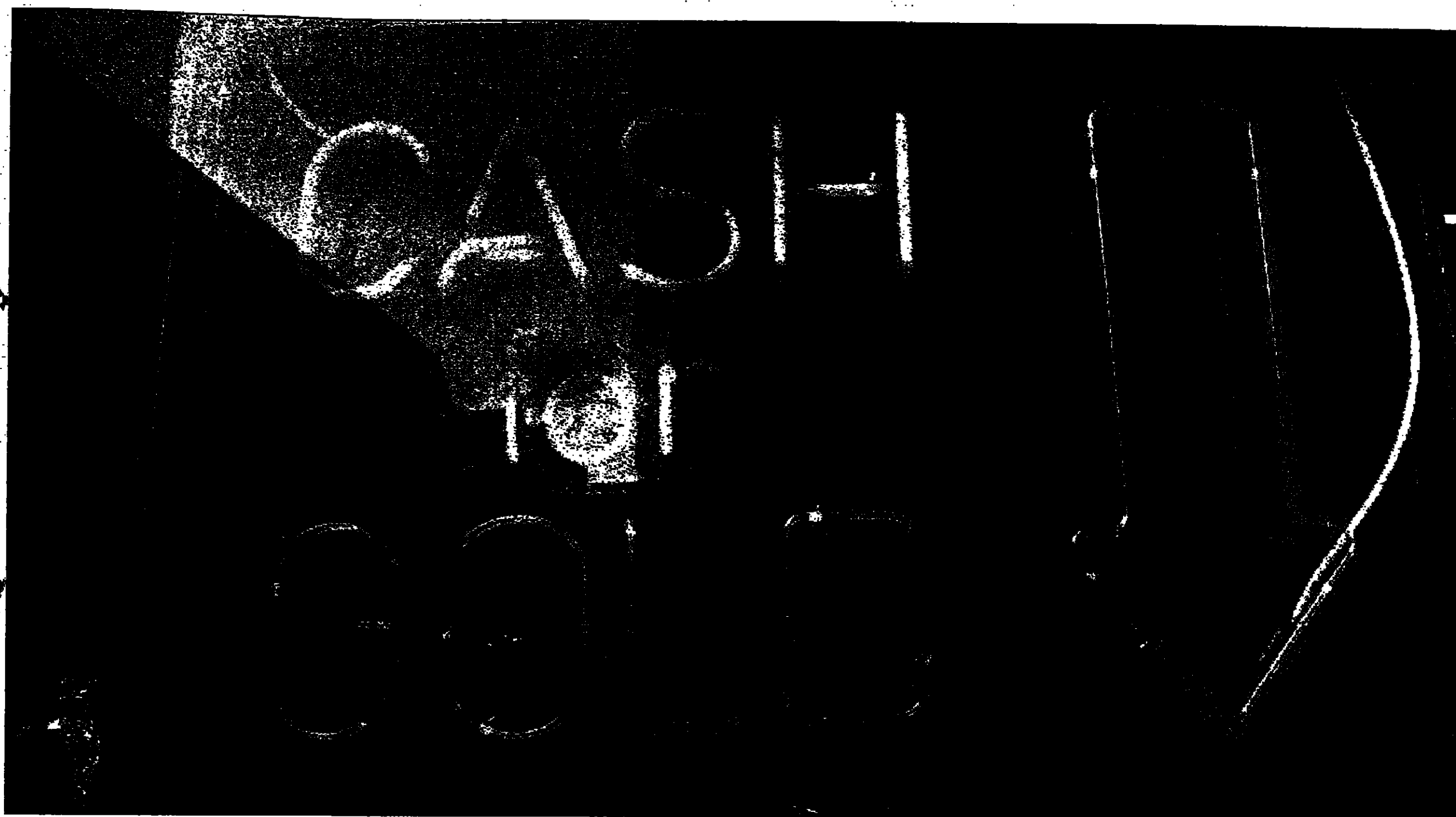
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TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Away from the brash advertising of legitimate traders in Hatton Garden, furtive links between less scrupulous dealers and London's criminals are forged

Kajesh Lathigra

Jewellery and junk

For centuries Hatton Garden has been London's quarter for jewellers and goldsmiths, not to mention fencers and fraudsters. But now the drug money launderers have moved in. And things are turning ugly

BY PAUL LASHMAR



advice that has served me well.

"When I first came to the Garden the diamond dealers would do their business in the street, between 12pm and 2pm each day," says Hirsch. "But of course, you can't do that any more. Business down here has always been based on trust. There is a Yiddish term - 'mazel brocho' - my word is my bond. If someone reneged on a deal, they could never trade down here again."

The Garden has always adapted to new communities. Hirsch says the Indian community are now big buyers of pure gold. "Indian people will buy a gold bar as other people buy a loaf," he says. Recently Afro-Caribbean dealers have settled around Greville Street, to cater for their community's well-known appreciation of gold jewellery.

By the nature of its trade, Hatton Garden has also attracted another distinct group - London's criminal fraternity. Stolen jewellery has always poured into the Garden, sold or melted down and put back into circulation. Lucra from crime has forged links between the less scrupulous dealers and inner-London's crime families.

London's working-class criminals have always had a magpie fascination with gold and jewellery,

both as an ostentatious statement of wealth and as a readily tradable commodity. In the past I have seen a London villain take off a bulky gold ring to pay for a batch of cheap and probably stolen CDs - thus seizing a business opportunity that might otherwise have slipped away. Stolen jewellery is surprisingly hard to trace. If caught with stolen gear Garden traders will say they bought the haul "in good faith". Gold once smelted cannot be identified. Hatton Garden's greatest attraction for criminals is its cash economy.

The ease with which stolen jewellery passes through the Garden was shown in 1994, when some items stolen from Prince Charles turned up. The jeweller concerned, 39-year-old Geoffrey Mann, said he had unwittingly bought the four pairs of cufflinks and a tiepin within hours of the burglary at St James's Palace. Mann saw the pictures of the missing items in a newspaper and contacted Scotland Yard. They were returned, and the Prince thanked Mann. The jeweller had paid £450 for the £10,000 haul.

The relationship between the Garden's criminal underworld and dishonest traders led to one of the most remarkable episodes in recent criminal history. By the Seventies, certain traders in the Garden had become known for their skill in VAT frauds. Then they had a stroke of luck.

One of the first acts of the Thatcher government in 1979 was to scrap VAT on gold coins such as the South African krugerrand. VAT was kept on bullion gold and the rate was raised from 8 to 15 per cent. This was a "golden opportunity", as it were, for the more devious minds in the Garden.

The scam worked like this: traders would go into banks such as Johnson Matthey and purchase, say, £100,000-worth of gold krugerrands. They would then melt them down. The bullion would later be sold back to the banks, where the traders would receive £100,000, plus the 15 per cent VAT. Every time they went past "go", they would get 15 per cent. The VAT was then legitimately claimed back from the tax authorities by the banks. But the VAT money passed to the fraudster was never paid back. Millions were

made, effectively from the taxpayer's pocket.

At the same time, a number of armed robbers who hung around the Garden heard about the scam. By the early Eighties armed robbery had become a dangerous business. The supergrass system was thinning their ranks, and being caught with a sawn-off shotgun could result in an 18-year jail sentence - all for a few thousand pounds. The VAT gold fraud had a beautiful simplicity and made millions - and, if caught, all you could expect was a two-year sentence. Suddenly, the Garden was awash with gold fraud gangs.

Customs & Excise did not take long to realise that there was a problem. Legislation was passed to stop the frauds. But the criminal minds of Hatton Garden found new loopholes. Denis Graham says: "Then there was the 'missing trader' scam. When it came to paying VAT the trader had 'disappeared'." Often these were in fact front companies, often run by "patsies" - small-time criminals who would be paid to take the rap.

"The problem, for the Government, was how not to pass legislation that restricted legitimate trade," says Graham.

Since 1979 Customs and Excise has played cat and mouse with gold fraud gangs. Each time a new restriction has been put in place, the criminals have thought of new ways to get round it. When VAT was put on krugerrands, fraudsters started smuggling them in from the Continent where they carried no or little VAT. Over the years, these frauds have attracted every major criminal group, including the Mafia and the IRA. Hundreds of people have been jailed for these offences, but an estimated £1bn worth of VAT money has fallen into criminal hands.

The VAT frauds were an education for London's criminal elite, who had thus learnt how to smuggle, conduct fraudulent transactions and turn "dirty" money into clean money. They taught them the skills they needed for their current lucrative business in laundering drug proceeds.

Hatton Garden is famous as London's gold and jewellery quarter. Here, Oasis's Liam Gallagher came with Patsy Kensit to buy a wedding ring. In January, the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook bought his girlfriend Gaynor Regan an ornate, 18-carat ring with diamonds, for £600. For generations the betrothed have come here to get their bands of gold, and the canny rich to buy their gems, at prices that would make a Mayfair jeweller's eyes water.

But Hatton Garden has another, secret and more sinister side. In this cash-preferred environment, crime and trade have existed hand in hand beyond living memory. Only last week the area was in the news when the police launched a hunt for a gang of thieves who posed as joggers and stole £200,000 worth of diamonds from a Garden jewel merchant. Organised drugs gangs are using Hatton Garden for a new trade. According to those who work there and are in the know, the Garden has recently become a centre for laundering drug money.

By the early Nineties most of London's criminals had moved into drug-trafficking. The proceeds were enormous, and needed to be laundered. With tightening restrictions in the banks, new avenues have had to be opened. Hatton Garden's economy, built on gold for cash, has been crucial.

"In the last five years it's all become drugs money down here," one insider whispered to me, in one of the local cafés. "It has got very nasty and one has to be careful." At the centre of this is one of London's biggest crime families, known as "the A-team". They have bought into Hatton Garden in a big way. According to drugs officers this Islington family controls much of London's drugs trade, extending as far as the Ibiza club scene. Some 20 people are reputed to have been killed by the family, which is at the centre of a long-running special operation by MI5 and drug officers.

Hatton Garden, which occupies a small grid of narrow streets on the western border of the City of London, has been home to many famous names of the jewellery and precious metals trade: De Beers, Johnson Matthey, Sharps Pixley, and the Diamond Bourse. Much of Hatton Garden consists of rows of tall, dingy, late-Victorian buildings. At street level are the jewellers' shops with their garish signs for "discount", "valuations" and "krugerrands". Upstairs are warrens of small rooms, often protected by heavy security doors, where dealers and craftsmen have worked for generations. The manufacturing end of the business is dying off; most jewellery is now imported. But the trade flourishes.

One of the most distinct communities in the Garden is that of the Jewish traders, who moved into the area in the 19th century. Mostly fleeing pogroms in Europe, they came to dominate the Garden's jewellery trade. Nazi oppression brought another wave of refugees - mostly Hassidic Jews. Their descendants still conduct their business on the streets wearing the traditional black hats, coats and breeches that would have blended into the scene in 17th-century Vienna.

The area retains its Jewish culture. On Greville Street is a Garden landmark, The Nosherie, which, despite its brash New York deli sign, is an old-fashioned Jewish café. Mature waitresses serve salt beef sandwiches and meatloaf in prodigious quantities. Men in camel-hair coats and trilbies still carry out business deals here, talking out small magnifiers for a fleeting inspection of jewels. A familiar figure in Hatton Garden is Michael Hirsch, who has worked for the big gold dealers for 30 years. He is frequently called as a police expert in big cases. As a buyer and seller of precious metals, he probably knows more about gold than most.

"Sometimes people try to fool you. Lead bars dipped in gold are a favourite," he says. "I can tell by the smell, the hardness and handling if something is not right. Early on my boss taught me: 'First, don't look at the gold, look at the person's face'. That's

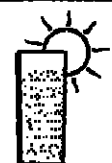
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MEDIA



Overcast in the North, but should see a sign of PIMM'S in the South.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Embassy bombings

Sir: Your headline on 8 August "US reels as 81 die, 1,200 hurt in massive embassy bombings" is, I'm sure, correct. Do you not think, however, that it might have been both more appropriate and more sensitive to have printed "Kenya reels..."? The more damaging explosion of the two took place in Nairobi, and the vast majority of those killed and injured were Kenyans. The headline as you have printed it could be taken to mean that *The Independent* considers Kenya and Tanzania and their citizens less important than Americans and the USA.
PETER MAIR
London NW3

Sir: The bombings of US embassies in Africa have drawn attention to these useless, dangerous, expensive and potentially embarrassing institutions.

They are useless because, using modern methods of communication, governments can (and frequently do) communicate with each other directly, only informing their embassies afterwards to bring them up to date.

Such methods are quicker, cheaper, carry less danger of misunderstanding and can be made more confidential than sending messages via embassies.

They are also dangerous because our embassies abroad cause dangers of breaches of security. They provide easy targets for terrorists and hostage-takers. Enraged mobs may also be tempted to vent their spleen upon them, creating international incidents.

Also there is danger from foreign embassies in London which can be used as bases for spies, assassins, saboteurs, terrorists etc and can even be used as prisons for people who have been kidnapped from our streets! Diplomatic immunity means that our police have no right to search their premises.

The expense of maintaining our embassies is colossal. There are so many embassies and our diplomats are treated so generously (even their children are sent to private schools at our expense) that the total is huge. It is also unnecessary.

Then there is the dilemma of when to "recognise" a foreign government. To maintain an embassy in a foreign country and to accept its embassy here is sometimes to show a degree of approval of that government. If embassies did not exist then such dilemmas would be eliminated as "recognition" would be an unnecessary and outdated concept.

Of course there could be offices for the issuing of visas etc, but these need not have diplomatic immunity and could be staffed mainly by local residents.
REG SIMMERSON
London

Forced labour

Sir: Recently a serious case was drawn to my attention, involving a former Bevin Boy.

Bevin Boys were conscripted for service in Britain's coal mines during the Second World War. They were chosen by lot from their age group which was then being called up for military service.

One of these unfortunate men has recently claimed a war disablement pension, on the basis of an injury to his back and deafness, which were attributed to his compulsory labour in the mines. The decision of Peter Lilley to reject his claim is now being upheld by the present government, on the grounds that the person involved was, during this time, "a civilian".

But all the Bevin Boys were conscripted, and the explicit justification for conscripting them was that the national interest required their compulsory industrial service in order to prosecute the war effort. At an earlier stage in the war, the government of the day had mistakenly called many mine workers into the armed forces, and it now found itself without sufficient manpower in the pits. So



At Charlton Athletic FC's Sparrows Lane training ground, Ron Thomas, the kit manager, prepares clean kit and towels for the next match, helped by his wife Jean. Ron estimates that on a Monday he will wash and dry more than 1,000 items for Charlton's first and second team players. Brian Harris

it was that young men were balloted for conscription to work in the mines.

This decision was very unpopular among the miners, who did not want to their own sons to be compelled to work in the pits. The Department of Social Security insists that these men "remained civilians", and are therefore ineligible under the relevant Pensions Order which applies "only to service personnel".

Bevin Boys were called up and allotted National Service registration numbers. Many of them were very distressed that they were denied the right to enter the armed forces. Baroness Hollis, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Security, informs me that "Bevin Boys were not classed as employees of the mining industry, and it is therefore very unlikely that the (British Coal) Corporation has ever had Employers' liability in respect of them".

In other words, when these young men were drafted into forced labour, no provision was made to uphold their rights, and none is currently intended.

The truth is that the Second World War was total war, and it was fought by a total mobilisation of resources. But the drafting of the subsequent War Disablement Pension Regulations has been done within a blinkered, partial vision which takes no account of the real circumstances under which Bevin Boys were conscripted to work.
KEN COATES MEP
Nottinghamshire

Alcohol crisis

Sir: As the wife of a recovering alcoholic I wish to express my wholehearted approval of the article "Booze: Britain's Real Drug Crisis", by Suzanne Moore

(Review, 7 August). I am glad to say that my experiences with the effects of alcoholism have been mild compared to the pain and suffering that many thousands of people go through, yet they came close to destroying my marriage and my health.

I have been angry for a long time that people feel the need to belittle the trauma that alcoholism can cause. When trying to explain or reach out to friends and family who think that there is nothing wrong with a "harmless drink" (which there isn't if you aren't an alcoholic) to relax, I have been driven to my wits end.

I have found help among people whose experiences are similar to my own, but I have long ago given up trying to talk about alcoholism seriously to anyone who hasn't been affected by it. Suzanne Moore expressed, without drama or

sensationalism, all the things I have been thinking for a long time. It gives me hope that someone articulate and informed is fighting for more understanding of something that has been killing a lot of people for a very long time. Name and address supplied

Sir: A survey finds that more than 2 million people drive while over the current blood-alcohol limit ("Millions of drivers defying drink law", 7 August). More evidence to support government proposals to lower the limit from 80 to 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood? The opposite.

If the limit were reduced, even more people would be driving while they were over it. Police resources would be spread more thinly, and they would have less chance of catching the drink-drivers most likely to be involved

in a serious accident - the ones with more than double the current legally permitted level of alcohol in their blood.

ANDREW BARR
London NW6

Gibran defended

Sir: Your critic Ruth Brandon in reviewing biographies of the mysterious Kahlil Gibran ("Priest in a parish of rich women", 5 August), makes the common mistake of judging the worth of what a man or woman says or achieves with regard to their personal conduct - the same egregious error that may unseat the most effective president that the Americans have elected since Roosevelt.

No doubt if we got our just deserts we would all deserve whipping but let she who is without

sin strike the first blow. As Sir George Pickering remarked in another context, any serious attempt at creative work is worth more than all the destructive criticism that can be made of it.

That much of what Kahlil had to say can no doubt be classed as platitudinous merely demonstrates that he had arrived at new ways of stating old truths - the most that any ordinary poet can aspire to, and surely preferable to the pointless mishmash of incoherent images that characterises most of the modern verse printed by *The Independent*.

PROF JOHN A DAVIS
Cambridge

Colour bar?

Sir: Last Friday, when we heard about the death of Nat Gonella, I found myself recalling my time as an adolescent in the late 1930s and the great difficulty one had of listening to good jazz music. If one's parents permitted it one could very occasionally have the pleasure of listening to Nat Gonella on the radio late at night, but otherwise one was mainly restricted to the mildness of "dance music". I had imagined the reasons were mainly based on class distinctions, perhaps strengthened by colour prejudice, as leading American jazz experts were often black. It was therefore interesting to read that the BBC's Director General, John Reith, had banned Nat for a year for including the words "Ants in my pants" in his singing of "I can't dance".

I also reflected on having seen South Africa's impressive black trumpeter Hugh Masekela in a sell-out concert in Oxford recently, as well as hearing him during the day on the BBC - so we have made progress in the last 60 years.
TREVOR J BROWN
Newbury

IN BRIEF

fly-by-night agencies that advertise to, and entrap, gullible people.

A degree, I say, is recognition of academic achievement. It cannot be bought. And yet I have to admit that in 1965 I purchased my own Cambridge MA. Africans and others from all over the world can scarcely believe it. You can buy a Cambridge degree?

May I plead that, far from opposing change, Oxbridge take a lead in abolishing this embarrassing, astonishing and antediluvian practice? A Cambridge Master's degree ought to be as respected as that of any other university. At present it is not.
JOHN D ANDERSON
Shipley
West Yorkshire

Sir: It would seem from a recently discovered history, "The Red Sea Scrolls", that the leaders of Gomorrah were fond of self-aggrandisement, which led them to build a fantastic structure, known locally as the Gomorrah dome. The fabulous cost of this edifice seemed obscene in a society lacking adequate health and education resources, and thus incurred God's displeasure.
MRS B STEPHENS
Hereford

Sir: At last the Oxbridge MA degree problem is being addressed ("Oxbridge fights MA modernisers", 8 August). I have worked in Africa for six years. I now lecture to Masters degree students from abroad. On occasion I have had to inveigh against the nefarious practice of buying false certificates for "degrees" from

I have two bugs in my computer and I'm not an alcoholic

WHEN I first told him that there was a bug inside my computer, Simon from Mastercare was mildly interested. He explained that there were many different kinds of computer viruses and that I would have to be rather more specific.

"It's not a virus, it's a bug," I said. "I have got a real bug inside my computer."

Strangely, he didn't believe me. I told him how, on a dark muggy day in Suffolk, a plague of tiny thunderflies had appeared in the room where I was working.

They had been everywhere - on my desk, on the window, even on the screen of my lovely new Toshiba laptop. I had gently wiped the surface. One bug remained, wandering across the restful blue sky favoured by Toshiba for its desktop mode. There was no doubt

about it; the bug was behind the screen. The next day there it was again, moving north. When it finally passed away, the bug became an angry dot on the top right of my computer screen.

It wasn't possible, according to Simon. Nothing could survive the electric current carried behind the screen. He suggested that I spoke to Toshiba.

It took quite some time to get through, during which the Toshiba switchboard comforted me with a soundtrack of middle-of-the-road classics that included, rather appropriately I thought, kd lang's "Constant Craving".

"I've got a bug in my computer. It got in through the side, went walkabout for a while, then died."

"A bug?"

"Yes. I rather like nature, as it

happens. I just don't want it inside my laptop."

"I see."

"I'm not an alcoholic."

"And where exactly were you working?"

"In Suffolk. Presumably one is allowed to use a Toshiba outside London."

Ms Toshiba assured me that I was, but also that it was quite impossible for a bug to get behind the screen - unless, she added disapprovingly, the machine had been tampered with. I explained that, due to my deep respect for, and fear of, anything technical, I was not one of life's tamperers.

The next day, as Jonathan from Mastercare was telling me that, if the seal for the screen really were faulty then the water that was behind it would have leaked, some-



TERENCE BLACKER

Others have written 'Me and my cancer' columns. Is the world ready for 'Me and my dementia'?

thing very exciting happened. "There is another one!" I shouted. "This time on the left-hand

side of the screen. A second bug!"

I noticed that Jonathan had become strangely quiet. "And I'm not an alcoholic," I said.

Jonathan admitted that there was a lot of interest in my machine at Mastercare. Nobody had heard of anything like this before. I felt obscurely proud, like a man with an interesting disease.

By now, my bugs played an important part in life. Friends rang to enquire as to their welfare. I told them how the second bug, Harry, had looked as if he was going to exit stage left but, with a perverse, heroic defiance, had turned, headed for the centre of the screen and expired. When the delivery man came to collect the computer, I showed him my bugs. He was terribly interested.

Two days later, Debbie from

Mastercare rang with the news that the fault was covered by the guarantee. Faulty pixels, it was.

"Do pixels move about?" I asked. "Are they the same shape as a thunderfly? Do they live for a day, then die?"

Debbie passed me over to Peter, the engineer. Like all the Mastercare staff, he was polite and kind - but there was no doubt in his mind. It was true that pixels did none of the things I mentioned but, sometimes, you know, your eyes played tricks on you.

"You're saying that for three days I've been imagining bugs behind my screen."

A sympathetic tone had entered Peter's voice. "I know that it might sound a bit rude," he replied gently, "but yeah."

So it's come to this. Either the

Laying the blame

Sir: "Navel watching among the bishops" (7 August) indicates that you are unclear as to the distinction between the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. The former is the Established Church in the provinces of Canterbury and York; the latter is an affiliation of autonomous churches over which Canterbury has no authority.

The 1998 Lambeth conference was blighted by two things: the fundamental spleen of some African bishops and the weak and inept chairmanship of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Church of England has many faults, but it would help if you could lay the blame for this recent debacle where it belongs.
THE REV ROBERT TORRENS
Chippingham
Cambridge

Sir: After the irrational antics of the bishops in conference it was a pleasure to read the Rev Neil Dawson's gentle criticism of them (Letters, 8 August). His sweet reason and tolerance have done more for the cause of Christianity than an eternity of bishops.
MAURICE HILL
Alicante, Spain

Charging about

Sir: Why is it that we do not build our houses with a 6-volt supply in addition to the standard 240?

Every other piece of household equipment seems to come with its own 6-volt transformer these days. A glance at the tangle of cables under my desk reveals transformers for two mobile phone chargers, halogen desk lamp, answering machine, calculator and cordless phone. Elsewhere are a couple of vacuum cleaners, electric drill and screwdriver, more cordless phones and a doorbell. Then there are shaver points in the bathrooms and chargers for garden tools and golf trolleys in the garage. This ignores those other items (PCs, radios, clocks, which probably have their own in-built transformers).

All of them cost money to produce, sit there consuming electricity, generating heat, electromagnetic-magnetic fields and goodness knows what else, tripping one up and probably constituting a fire hazard. How much simpler a second low voltage circuit around the house would be so that we could just plug these gadgets all straight in.

KEITH BAILEY
Basingstoke

Therapist registers

Sir: Jack O'Sullivan, in his article "Far too long on the couch" (4 August), refers to the need for a respected regulatory framework for therapists in the mental health field; yet he fails to mention the two registration organisations that have been formed, precisely to protect the public.

Firstly, there is the United Kingdom Committee for the Regulation of Psychotherapists which covers a wide variety of psychotherapeutic approaches, and secondly, the British Confederation of Psychotherapists, which includes the well-established analytic psychotherapy organisations. Both provide registers that are available to the public.

While psychoanalytic training, under the auspices of the British Psycho-Analytical Society, is a most demanding and rigorous procedure, O'Sullivan is correct in that, at present, anyone can call themselves a psychoanalyst. If in doubt of anyone's qualifications, the public should consult the registers.

Of course, no one treatment approach precludes another. Many people with depression, as well as being given antidepressant medication, receive supportive counselling.

There is no difficulty within the NHS in accessing advice through one's GP.

DR RICHARD LUCAS
Consultant Psychiatrist
St Ann's Hospital, London N15

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JP 11/10/50

PANDORA

YESTERDAY AT the Old Bailey, two men who admitted that they had tried to blackmail Mohammed Al Fayed with videos of Bugs Bunny and *Sinbad the Sailor* were released without prison sentences. According to the Press Association report: "The would-be extortionists claimed the innocent videos, bought at a motorway service station, contained material that would cause huge embarrassment to Mr Fayed".

Obviously this farcical crime was doomed from the start. Even if the Harrods owner was an avid cartoon fan, a connoisseur of Bugs and Sinbad, would this have disconcerted him? Certainly not. Al Fayed has made it abundantly clear during the past year that he will not succumb to any attempts to embarrass him. Least of all his own.

WHERE DO you go to write a modern "Western" if you are one of Hollywood's hottest, hippest director/screenwriters? Amsterdam, of course. At least, that's where Pandora's spies have spotted Quentin Tarantino in recent days. The director of *Jackie Brown* and *Pulp Fiction* is said to be planning to stay holed up in the city for several months plotting his next film opus.

No doubt he could find plenty of cinematic inspiration in Amsterdam's picturesque urban landscape, with its lovely canal-side saloons and fragrant coffee houses.

WHERE DO First Ladies go to lunch in August? Yesterday Lady Thatcher joined her old friend Nancy Reagan on the fashionable island of Martha's Vineyard, off Cape Cod, as guests of Katherine Graham, owner of the *Washington Post* and *Newsweek*. Hillary Clinton and Chelsea are due to arrive on the island later this week. Meanwhile poor Cherie Blair, marooned out in dusty old Tuscany, didn't even make it to the Hamptons this summer.

THE ART market is cruising at the moment, fuelled by all places, Las Vegas.

Millionaire casino tycoon Steve Wynn has on a spending spree as he prepares to open his new high-roller oasis, Bellagio, on the Strip on October 15.

With an overall art budget said to be \$400m, Wynn has just returned from Europe bearing Van Gogh's *Woman in a Blue Dress*, Matisse's *Michaela* and works by Degas, Picasso and Giacometti, all worth a total of \$40m. Earlier this year he spent an equal amount on contemporary American paintings by Jasper Johns, de Kooning, Lichtenstein and others.

Pandora has nothing but admiration for this attempt to infuse the synthetic neon-and-plastic culture of Vegas with authentic artworks, but one nagging question does arise. The "theme" of Wynn's Bellagio hotel and casino is said to be the Renaissance. Didn't this take place in Italy? A few centuries before Jasper Johns, or even Van Gogh, created their masterpieces? OK, so it's the Renaissance "Vegas-style".

VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH has written an amusing letter of complaint hilariously marked "FOR PUBLICATION" complaining about Pandora's item of last week in which his words were quoted. "I did not behave like some sort of prima donna when your reporter telephoned me - out of the blue - on my private home number. I'm quite used to being phoned, although I'm thinking of changing my line to a premium 0898 number so at least I can make 60p a minute on the deal. After all, I buy the so-called *Independent* every day. Am I now expected to contribute to its column inches gratis and for free?"

According to the self-effacing TV critic and comedy writer, his opinions "have a current market value of about a halfpenny a ton." Even at that generous rate, Pandora estimates that the highly prolific Lewis-Smith must be earning a hefty annual sum.

MADONNA YESTERDAY firmly denied the report in one tabloid that she was married in London last week, to a man called Tony Bird. In fact, she has been catching up on her reading. She was spotted recently with a copy of Karen Salmansohn's very helpful book *How to Make Men Behave in 20 Days or Less Using the Secrets of Professional Dog Trainers*. Fair enough, since it was undoubtedly a man who first said "Life's a bitch".



Hang on - do princes need helmets?



CHARLES ARTHUR

Harry wanted what any teenager wants: to have full control of his life and death

GOOD GRIEF. From the reactions to 13-year-old Prince Harry's exploits on an abseil rope on a dam in Wales, you would think that he had been caught eating beef on the bone or something. No safety helmet! yelled the tabloids. No safety rope! No safety boots! (Do they mean anti-gravity boots? Are they now in shops?)

My own reactions to the teenager's day out were rather different. They were: nice to see somebody having fun for a change; pity it's abseiling, which barely requires a skill level above having a pulse; and what a relief that he isn't encumbered with all that dorky, useless stuff like a helmet and back-up rope.

We learnt from the inevitable "royal sources" that the boy's father was furious that his sons' lives were "put at risk". Would that furious person be the same Prince Charles who has broken various bits of his body while horse-riding, and has narrowly avoided being killed while skiing off-piste, then? The air is thick with the smell of hypocrisy. What's worse is that it's not even well-informed hypocrisy; and the ultimate effect might be that not only

Prince Harry but, by example, many other children across the nation are condemned to live a life wrapped in cotton wool.

The misinformation surrounding Harry's bit of fun is remarkable. Abseiling may look daring, but if you have the right set-up - a good anchor and suitable location - it's safer and considerably easier than crossing the road. One "safety ex-

pert" informed *The Daily Mail* that Harry should have had at the very least a helmet "in case of falling rocks". Tosh. You find no rocks atop pedestrianised Welsh reservoirs. And had he fallen the distance, no helmet on earth could have saved him from death.

No "safety line"? Actually, the set-up used would have acted as a natural brake even if the prince had slipped: the weight of the rope below him would have provided friction in his abseiling device and slowed him down, while the gentle slope of the dam would have offered a relatively soft landing. He would have been bruised and banged, but not dead.

But it's the very absence of a back-up that obviously made this important to the young boy. Harry wanted what any teenager wants: to have full control of his life and death. He didn't want to be mollycoddled, and it's to the credit of those who were looking after him that day that they let him have his head, unencumbered by a useless helmet, which would have made him feel like a twit, and an unbecomingly adult.

What's more amusing about all

this to rock climbers (such as myself) is that everyone who is working themselves into a lather over this seems to think that to abseil implies that you spit in the face of Death and have nerves of steel. Actually, all you have to do is keep hold of a rope in front of you. Everything else is taken care of by friction and gravity. It's as complex as holding a doorknob.

Personally, I hate abseiling. It requires no particular skill yet somehow gets promoted to the status of an "activity" by eager outdoor centres. Second, it can kill you, notably when you're going backwards over the edge of a rope-cutting sharp cliff attached (one hopes - I once met someone who forgot to connect his rope to his harness before stepping backwards: he spent six months in hospital) to a rope 11mm thick, which is anchored to a couple of aluminium wedges lodged in a piece of manky-looking rock. That's when you fret, and double-check things. But not when you have a stonking great knot attached to a dam. That's when you run down face-first yelling "Whee!"

Yet one can see an awful outcome

from this daft panic, in which Prince Charles will insist that abseiling means boots, helmet, back-up rope, no running down the cliff. And ditto for other "dangerous" sports. Parents across the country will follow suit.

But why should we make boredom a national pastime? I would prefer children to get to know what they're really capable of. It would have been quite enlightening for Harry if he had slipped halfway down and had to fight to keep his grip on the rope. I think in another age we might have called it character-building. One would think it was useful for someone who might become King.

Perhaps Charles is right. Perhaps he correctly perceives that the society Harry might come to rule will be so terrified of open risk, so ready to yowl when the slightest statistical pipette implies that some food or pastime carries a heightened element of danger that its ruler should think the same. Expunge that daredevil. Create a frightened child who sees a paedophile lurking outside the car on the school run. And always, always wear your safety helmet and safety shoes.

The Taliban have won - now they must join the world



J.J. FERGUSSON

Now that they control 90 per cent of Afghanistan the Taliban are bound to press for Western recognition

IT APPEARED to be third time lucky for Afghanistan's Taliban Islamic movement this weekend as their forces rolled into Mazar-i-Sharif, stronghold of the opposition northern alliance which repelled the southern invaders twice last year. Reports on the extent of the city's occupation remain confused, but even Assad Ullah, spokesman for the most important alliance figure, the ethnic Uzbek leader Abdul Rashid Dostam, acknowledged a defeat. "Our forces have been scattered everywhere," he said. "There is not much we can do at the moment in the north."

So what does the West do now? So far only three countries, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and UAE, have recognised the Taliban as Afghanistan's legitimate rulers. Britain and the West still recognise the ousted president, the ethnic Tajik Burhanuddin Rabbani, which is a source of deep irritation to the Taliban leadership. Before this weekend the militia controlled about two-thirds of Afghanistan. Now that they control nine-tenths of it they are certain to press their case for Western recognition harder than ever.

Taliban spokesmen in Islamabad have not ceased to point out the advantages of their regime. First among these, they say, is the peace they have brought to the areas they control, achieved by a policy of disarmament. Certainly, the lawless bandits that still plague the north have all but disappeared in the south, which has allowed farmers, for example, to drive their produce to market again. Something like normal life has resumed for a population that is utterly weary of 19 consecutive years of war. Even some northerners acknowledge that achievement.

The Taliban, who are mostly Pashtuns, by far the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan, claim they

have a popular mandate (though this is certainly not the case in the Dari-speaking north); they say they stand for stability, for trade, and for peace under the eyes of God. Afghanistan's neighbours, Iran and Russia, fear that the Taliban intend to export their fiery brand of Islam and have consistently, though not openly, supplied the opposition with money and arms. The Taliban angrily deny the charge, saying their ambitions extend no further than Afghanistan's borders, and blame the extension of the war on "foreign interference."

They may have a point, though the timing of the East African bombings could hardly have been worse for the Taliban in public relations terms. The US's prime suspect for the outrages in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam is the Saudi extremist Osama bin Laden, who makes his home in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Strangely enough, Afghanistan has not joined Libya, Syria et al in the Western consciousness as harbours of Islamic terrorism. At least, not yet. This may be because

Western attention has been directed elsewhere, notably towards the more extreme aspects of the Taliban's faith, and in particular their treatment of women. The uproar that greeted the 1996 edicts banning women from working and going to school, and enforcing the veil, came as a genuine surprise to the Taliban. They pointed out, with some justification, that there was nothing new in their edicts: Pashtuns have been locking up their women for centuries. What business was it of the West to complain, now that the Taliban had come to prominence?

The Taliban had its Western apologists. Some said that allowances should be made for naivety in such a young movement, and that in time, military success would foster a greater sense of international responsibility. After all, the Taliban did not exist before 1994, and it remains, essentially, a militia of students. Its troops are traditionally drawn from the rural maddrasahs, or religious schools, where orphans from the war with Russia were deposited and educated with no other text than the Koran.

There is little sign, however, that the Taliban are maturing. Indeed, relations with the West have if anything grown worse. A number of high-profile visits by Western emissaries have ended in disaster, notably that of the European Commissioner, Emma Bonino, whom the Taliban's supreme commander, the one-eyed Mullah Mohammed Omar, refused even to see because her delegation contained women. Meanwhile, edicts from the splendidly named Ministry for the Fostering of Virtue and the Suppression of Vice have not diminished, and are ever more Monty Pythonesque in flavour. Ground-floor windows must be blacked out in case passers-by might spot a woman out of her burqa. Public hair



The edict enforcing the veil was "nothing new", said the Taliban

must be shaved: spot checks were briefly introduced in Kabul's pedestrian subways. Less funny is the Taliban's attitude to the cultivation of opium. Despite a Taliban promise to eradicate the crop they are aided by a four-year, \$16.4m UN-sponsored drugs control programme, which seeks to encourage the country's estimated 200,000 opium farmers to plant more wholesome crops in exchange for aid. Production this year has in fact increased by 25 per cent. Some 90 per cent of all heroin in the UK now originates in Afghanistan. There is little doubt that the Taliban are hypocritically exploiting the opium trade to fund their war with the north.

Even more indicative of the Taliban's disdain for the West, perhaps, is its attitude towards the Western aid community. The Afghans desperately need our aid and expertise if their shattered country is ever to be rebuilt. But the Taliban have constantly objected to the presence of women among the aid teams based in Kabul; and earlier this year they demanded that the various aid

agencies, for reasons of "management," decamp into a single compound in the capital. The majority of Western aid organisations has now ceased operations in Kabul and withdrawn from the country.

Under these circumstances it is hard to see how the Taliban can possibly expect the West to recognise them as Afghanistan's rightful rulers. Yet expect it they do. The gulf of misunderstanding is as wide as ever. With their victory in Mazaran an important excuse for Taliban intransigence has been taken away. They can no longer regrettably point to the exigencies of war as the reasons for their heavy-handed control of the population; and with the fulfilment of their stated military ambitions, they will be forced to prove their credentials as peacetime rulers. This they cannot do without Western aid. Yet the West, and rightly, refuses to give the Taliban that unless they make some serious concessions in the field of human rights. If they want Western recognition, then the ball is in their court. It is time for the Taliban to grow up.

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Engagement is not endorsement

FORTUNATELY, WHEN it comes to the Asia-Pacific region, there is no better example of co-operation built on shared values and interests than the relationship between the United States and Australia. On the map, we could hardly be further apart. But as defenders of freedom and advocates of the rule of law, we cannot be separated. For decades, we have stood shoulder to shoulder, both in time of peace and through five wars.

Obviously, we don't always see eye to eye. In some economic sectors we're competitors as well as partners. Globally, our roles are not the same. Regionally, Australia's perspective is sharpened by its proximity to the Asian mainland. But on the big things, on the central issues of democratic government, the pursuit of prosperity and the desire for peace, we are true allies, valued partners, and, I hope, eternal friends.

For example, in the aftermath of the South Asia nuclear tests, we agree that the nuclear non-proliferation regime must be buttressed and its value emphasised. Every effort must be made to reduce tensions

and prevent a nuclear arms race in the region. And every nation in the world should agree, as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty provides, never again to conduct a nuclear explosive test.

Our countries both understand the strategic significance of China and the key role it will play in determining whether the Asia-Pacific remains stable. And we agree that China should be encouraged to define its interests in ways compatible with the stability and prosperity of its neighbours, and to observe its international norms on proliferation and human rights.

President Clinton's recent trip to China reflected progress toward both these goals. He conveyed a message of freedom and friendship directly to the Chinese people. He drew the connection between individual liberty and competitiveness in the global economy. And he stressed the importance of halting the spread of dangerous weapons and technologies.

I was encouraged by the recent trend toward greater openness in China. At the same time, I have been disturbed by the recent detention of reli-



PODIUM

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

From remarks by the US Secretary of State to the Asia Society, Sydney, Australia

gious and political activists, and I said so to the Chinese Foreign Minister Tang when we met in Manila.

Engagement with China brings benefits to both our nations. But engagement is not the same thing as endorsement, and we should continue to speak frankly about the problems that remain.

Our nations also agree that it is past time for Burma to rejoin the family of democratic

nations, and here your Foreign Minister and I had another chance to work together in Manila.

Regrettably, the Burmese regime is pursuing a policy not of dialogue but of denial. Today, Aung San Suu Kyi, who was marking her sixth day in a stand-off, was all of a sudden taken in her car by a military driver back to Rangoon and thereby forbidden from exercising a basic human right, which is the ability to travel freely in your own country. We have just heard this news and Foreign Minister Downer and I have spoken about it. We think that this is an unacceptable violation of her human rights, and it will only contribute to the further isolation of Burma, a country whose people are suffering because the government is not moving in a way to have the kind of dialogue and democratic discourse that is necessary. Aung San Suu Kyi is a remarkable person and has fought for the freedom of the Burmese people. She is entitled to be able to go on doing that in a way that strengthens democracy.

Finally, and perhaps most important, both our nations

have an interest in seeing that confidence is restored to the troubled economies of East Asia. With today's global market, problems in one place can and do affect people every place. Nations that export to Asia - and both our nations export a great deal - are being hurt.

But the potential costs are far greater than lost exports. Misery can give rise to mistrust among nations; poverty can push desperate people across borders; economic despair can lead to disillusionment with economic and political freedom. Because of the financial crisis, these are not the best of times for the people of this region.

America's commitment to the peace and stability of this region and to the freedom and welfare of its people is not a fair-weather commitment. That commitment is grounded in our own interests. It is consistent with enduring principles of democracy and law. It is made secure by alliance with our closest partners, such as Australia. And it is animated by our hopes for a future far better than the past.

JP 11/15/93

America gets used to terror



ANDREW MARSHALL
The much predicted decline into isolationism has not happened

THE SAD human stories of America's losses in the African Embassy bombings started to emerge yesterday, spread out in cold print in the morning papers. There were grainy over-enlarged pictures of Consul-General Julian Bartley, the boy made good from Queens whose body lay unidentified in a Kenyan morgue, and his son, who was working in the embassy in his holidays. Then there was the brief life history of Prabhi Kavaler, who had arrived a little early for her Foreign Service post in order to scout out the local schools, and lost her life as a consequence.

Whatever the politics of an attack such as this, the human sadness of these sudden and unexpected deaths is always there. Yet America's reaction to the deaths in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam has so far been muted. That is partly because there have been fewer Americans killed than in previous incidents; partly, it is because there is no clear suspect as yet. But it also marks the passing of age: America is more numb to these attacks than it was 20 years ago, and the way it sees itself and its role in the world is changing.

America's engagement in foreign affairs has always been problematic. It has been almost exactly 100 years since President William McKinley intervened in the war in Cuba against Spain in the name of "the cause of humanity", launching his country into a century of overseas activism. Until then, it had been keener on protecting its own interests at home, secure in the idea of itself as the promised land.

"America does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy," said John Quincy Adams in 1821. "She might become the dictator of the world. She would no longer be the ruler of her own spirit." After Cuba, America became a crusader-state, which saw itself as engaged in a fight not just for power, but for right.

But it has always been sensitive to the risks and ravages of foreign engagement, and that crusade was interrupted twice: after the horrors of the First World War, and again in the 1970s, as the nation recoiled both from Vietnam and from the stories of the Church Commission's investigation into covert actions abroad. Both times, it was unwillingly led back into the world by Franklin Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan, both of whom believed that it had a duty to engage with its enemies.



A soldier in Dar es Salaam guards the gutted building of the US embassy

Reuters

Sometimes, that engagement has been very painful. In the past two decades, three events have seared themselves into American minds above all others. There were the harrowing, frustrating days of the Iranian Embassy hostage crisis, and the twisted, charred bodies of those who sought to rescue them. Then there was the crumpled fabric of the Marine barracks in Beirut, destroyed by a truck bomb in 1983, and the soldiers who came to Somalia in a flood of publicity, with arc lights and cameramen on the beach, but many of whom never left.

In the aftermath of these events, each time it was predicted that America would withdraw into itself, unable to absorb the loss. And each time there was a tactical withdrawal, away from the carnage. America is certainly far less willing to put soldiers in jeopardy than it was even 10 years ago. And it remains deeply wary of involvement in theatres such as the Balkans unless a secure exit strategy can be written from the outset. But though America's concern and involvement in foreign policy has diminished since 1989, it remains involved. The

much-predicted decline into isolationism has not happened.

Every year, America sends hundreds of thousands abroad to serve in embassies, CIA stations, international development offices, remote listening stations in sleepy Bavarian towns, observation posts on the border between the Koreans and aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean. The numbers have come down since the end of the Cold War, but the US is still deeply engaged in the world, not just at the level of the think tanks and the high-level dialogues at dining tables in New York, London or Beijing, but in terms of a large-scale commitment of people.

Something of the profile of these people can be seen in the casualty list from the Nairobi embassy. Mr Bartley was a career Foreign Service official who had worked his way up from the Brooklyn Boys High School through college, a master's degree and Peace Corps service in Samoa (he had asked for Africa). Many worked for the military, like the fresh-faced 21-year-old Marine Sergeant Jesse Alliganga, or Air Force Master Sergeant Sherry Olds. One, Mary Louise Martin, was an epidemiologist working on a pilot project to treat drug-resistant strains of malaria.

Reading between the lines, some were involved in the more discreet branches of American public service. Molly Huckaby Hardy was an "administrative worker" for the State Department whose family and friends "never actually knew what she did for the government" in Laos, Vietnam, Brazil or Kenya, according to the *New York Times*. Army Sergeant Kenneth Hobson was sent to Kenya after training in Arabic. "He told his parents he was not allowed to talk much about his job," the *New York Times* said. Was he, perhaps, one of those in Kenya who were reported to have been monitoring the activities of men linked to the radical Muslim Osama bin Laden?

The assumption of those who bomb American facilities is that the country will react in a certain way: that the US is less willing than others to accept casualties, and that it will inevitably react with a mixture of horrified pain and a desire to strike back that outweighs all rational calculation. This is not unjustified, because that is how America has reacted so often before, when it bombed Libya, or shelled Lebanon from the Second World War battleship USS *New Jersey*, for instance. It is a nation of outsize emotions.

But the response this time has been more measured, as it was to previous bombings in Saudi Arabia that also claimed American lives. In part, this is a question of policy. Officials from the State Department say publicly that they are quite aware of the risks of over-reaction, and of the dangers that flow from ill-considered if satisfying retaliation in hot blood. But in part it has been because there has been less sense of a public wave of righteous anger, and the need to satisfy it.

Since the Beirut bombings, America has become not immune, but less sensitised to the horrors of sudden strikes on its forces overseas. The World Trade Centre and Oklahoma bombings were also a loss of virginity, showing that terrorism could happen at home as well as abroad.

Oklahoma in particular remains, in the minds of officials and the media alike, a rebuke to those who would leap to judgement on the culprits. Far from being the product of some sinister, faceless Muslim conspiracy, it was the work of a white, Christian American with a grudge against the system. It is not that America has become blasé about losing lives in these horrifying events, but it has become more accustomed. And times have changed. During the Cold War, America's government often led the nation further than it wanted to go in foreign policy. The depth of commitment outweighed the public's willingness to be engaged.

This helps to explain both the frequent zig-zags in policy, as the country tried to recalibrate its exposure to foreign affairs, and the cries of pain as engagements that had never properly been explained, or were not sustained by public support, ran into problems.

Commitment and public acceptance are more in balance today. The country has lost a little of its crusading righteousness, but it has also, as a corollary, become less prone to retreat into itself. Bill Clinton is frequently criticised (from both sides of the Atlantic) for his timidity and reactiveness in foreign policy, but he has a better sense of America's willingness to absorb pain than many of his predecessors. His words after the bombings last week were perfectly in tune with the nation's emotions: grieving at the loss, yet unwilling to be driven back by adversity. Mr Clinton may have many flaws, but as a judge of the public mood, he has perfect pitch.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DAN VERAKIS

Monsanto's Public Affairs Manager answers criticisms of genetically modified food

THE DEBATE on the subject of biotechnology is now well under way. Monsanto welcomes this. We recognise that people have genuine concerns about genetically modified (GM) food and that they need more information.

At Monsanto, we believe that biotechnology offers a more sustainable way of growing food by reducing the amount of herbicide and pesticide used. These crops deliver direct benefit to farmers today and, in the future, will be able to deliver direct benefits to consumers.

In particular, these foods can improve levels of nutrition, with higher vitamin content, and help prevent disease. An example is high beta-carotene oil, which will combat night blindness.

One of the issues that is most often ignored in this debate is the rigorous type approval process which all GM foods must undergo.

To date, there have been 25,000 field trials on 60 different crops, conducted in 45 different countries, in consultation with hundreds of scientists from all over the world.

There are extensive tests to determine human impact, more than required for any other foods.

In the UK, up to six different government committees and three separate government departments are involved in approving GM foods. This process of approval may take up to three years and has been put in place to ensure that GM food can only be sold in this country after a tough and lengthy process of scientific checks.

The importance of the discussion about GM foods becomes increasingly significant as the world's population rapidly expands. By the year 2030, it may well have doubled, while the amount of land available for growing crops is likely to remain the same.

Biotechnology does not offer the only solution to feeding this massive increase in world population, but it can play a key role. When all the facts are known about the safety standards set for biotechnology food, consumers will share our view.

The dark side of the global dream

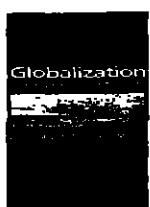
YOU CAN imagine some Alf Garnett of the 21st century, spitting vowels and spitting bile over the very word. "Well, it's yer globalisation, innit? All these bloody huge companies, hand a glove wiv the World Bankers, runnin' riot all over the place, settin' up an' closin' dahn wherever they bloody well feel like it."

Pardon the phonetics - but hopefully you get the drift. Once it was a term used only in the rapier-play of the academic conference hall. Nowadays, "globalisation" is in danger of becoming a new populist keyword. Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, works-in-progress, have been using the word like a nail-encrusted club to beat down resistance to their New Economic Order. Yet, if you hear enough about "the challenges of globalisation", maybe one day you will just rise to that challenge. Though not, perhaps, in the desired way.

The recent massive strike at General Motors in Michigan was explicitly about globalisation. Workers were resisting GM's attempts to work them harder, the company pleading that it was under pressure from cheaper plants and competitors throughout the world. And one of the voices in support of the strike was Pat Buchanan, the right-wing demagogue who has turned defender of the American worker against the scourge of the global economy.

Semi-socialist critiques, such as William Greider's book, *One World: Ready or Not*, have been receiving acclaim from the American business press. Even corporate behemoths such as General Electric's chief executive, Jack Welch, are publicly worrying about the global market's tendency to over-produce. In the US, at least, "globalisation" is at last turning from a mantra into a debatable issue.

On these shores, the first counter-attack came recently from John Gray,



TUESDAY BOOK

GLOBALIZATION: THE HUMAN CONSEQUENCES
BY ZYGMUNT BAUMAN, POLITY PRESS, £10.95

former guru of the New Right. But his book, *False Dawn: the delusions of global capitalism*, went down in a hail of bullets from a phalanx of nit-picking economists. Zygmunt Bauman's *Globalization: the human consequences*, for all its brooding brilliance, is no likelier to gain favour from those who regard a technical mastery of intra-corporate investment flows as

the only way to address this question. Bauman, emeritus professor of sociology at Leeds and Warsaw, is the dark side to Blair's favourite intellectual, LSE director Anthony Giddens. Where Giddens bends his labours to building a "Third Way", a politics that can master the tensions of late modernity, Bauman sees these same tensions hardening themselves

into a series of new and almost intractable inequalities.

And globalisation, in his analysis, produces the most fiendish inequality yet - one that divides the world between the mobile and the immobile. At one extreme there is a cosmopolitan, capitalist elite, revelling in the speed and weightlessness of the new planetary systems of money and technology, brahminically proclaiming their dominance. At the other extreme are those whom info-capitalism simply leaves behind - those "localities" (workforces, communities, cultures) that are switched on or off by global business networks, according to their comparative usefulness.

Within this great polarisation - statistically verified by the recent monumental trilogy from Manuel Castells, *The Information Age* - Bauman subtly lays out the "human consequences". Nation states, ever more weakened by global forces, become internally obsessed with law and order. Excelling in the job of "precinct policeman", says Bauman, "is the best (perhaps the only) thing state government may do to cajole nomadic capital into investing in its subjects' welfare". Is this the real "iron" behind our Chancellor and his welfare-to-work severities?

The anxiety of the middle classes under globalisation becomes, for Bauman, a battle of identities. They conceive of themselves as "tourists": they are consumers gaily sampling the diverse pleasures of the world. Yet they fear that they may also become "vagabonds" - compelled to move or stay according to the dictates of poverty and necessity.

For all Bauman's critical powers, his final tone is fatalistic. Globalisation makes it "increasingly difficult, perhaps impossible, to reforge social issues into effective collective action". Nowhere in this short book does he mention Europe. But it is at least a



Pat Buchanan, defender of the American worker

possibility that a more "federal" Union will find ways to leash this new hyper-capitalism to the concerns of social solidarity both within and without its boundaries.

And what if the culture of the globalisers - hybrid, restless, pluralistic - were not just an elite affair? Pop culture, and the techno-creativity that the Cool Britannia scam tried to exploit, joyously embraces the global. It emphasises routes rather than roots, mixing Utopia and realism, both vagabond and tourist. Is it possible that a younger generation might forge its own "world ethic", deploying the same flexible processes - digital technology, computer networks, cheap travel - which are what Bauman deplors?

One would never cast a world-class intellectual such as Bauman in the role of a next-century Alf Garnett, waving his fist at the future flying overhead. But a full measure of globalisation's human consequences should include the possibility of creation, as well as destruction.

PAT KANE

TUESDAY POEM

SUNDERLAND NIGHTS REVISITED
BY PETER ARMSTRONG

Listen to those names again:	in the shape of the rain and the one
Enon, Elton, Hebron: strong	slow
between the testaments and	
geography,	last car saying hush along the road,
the weather coming off the sea and	is the only gift that's given us
scratching	tonight,
its grey belly on the black-spined	we could walk close and quietly,
town.	knowing the text too well to speak
	it
Tell the saved girls I'm backslidden	or say anything aloud,
now	
but still adrift among those	huddled in the old coats of a
choruses,	faithfulness,
abundant and reverent in equal	a promised land somewhere
measure:	hereabouts
and since the take-aways are shut,	heavy with its grapevines, place-
and kenosis	names, sea-frets.

This poem comes from Peter Armstrong's new collection *The Red-funnelled Boat* (Picador, £6.99)

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Indian Tiger by Philip Meech
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Sir David Hunt

"ONE MAN in his time plays many parts", but few have played as many and so effectively as David Hunt. University don, diplomat, author, archaeologist, television celebrity and army officer: Hunt successfully filled all these roles. Witty and down to earth, his encyclopaedic memory and fast incisive thinking were notably demonstrated when he was confronted in public debate, in providing an impromptu speech, or in resolving an intractable problem.

He was born in 1913, the son of Canon Bernard Hunt. Precociously, at the age of three he learned to read and write. He was educated at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate, and Wadham College, Oxford. His firsts in Mods and Greats pointed to a career in academia and in 1937, at the age of 24, he became a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.

The outbreak of the Second World War, however, changed everything. He joined the First Battalion of the Welsh Regiment and became an officer attached to Field Marshal Alexander's staff. Hunt was responsible for drafting the final despatches of Lord Alexander as Supreme Allied Commander. He served in the Middle East, the Balkans, North Africa and Italy. He rose to the rank of Colonel, was mentioned three times in despatches and awarded the US Bronze Star.

Hunt enjoyed his war service and seriously considered a career in the regular army. Already though, under the influence of Lord Alexander, he had made an application to join the diplomatic service. But a skiing accident resulted in a complicated compound fracture of his left leg. The wound turned septic and there was talk of amputation. Hunt reflected: "It would be awkward to be a one-legged diplomat but a one-legged soldier would find his career possibilities even more restricted". So, wistfully, he turned down the army offer in favour of that from the diplomatic service. In the event the

wound was healed by the new magic of penicillin and the leg made stronger than ever by the insertion of a couple of stainless steel screws. By that time, though, "my course was set and I haven't regretted it. The diplomatic service has been good to me."

In 1950 he became Private Secretary to Clement Attlee, whom he found very amusing and extremely good company. With a change of government he became Private Secretary to Winston Churchill, who proved not so easy to serve but he stood up to the Prime Minister, and as a sounding board, but not a passive one, he assisted in the preparation of the PM's speeches.

In 1954 Hunt was posted to Pakistan as Deputy High Commissioner. Then, in 1960, as Under-Secretary of State in the Commonwealth Relations Office, he accompanied Harold Macmillan on his tour of Africa, where he drafted the memorable "Wind of Change" speech.

In 1962 he went as head of mission to Kampala, Uganda, the first of his four High Commissioner appointments. They proved to be far removed from the public image of diplomatic life as a quiet and dignified pursuit. In fact, Hunt became involved in the suppression of an army mutiny in Uganda.

To add to his stress, his wife, Pamela, whom he had married in 1948 and by whom he had had two sons, left him. Their marriage was dissolved in 1967 and Hunt was granted custody of the children. Later, while in Uganda, he met and married his second wife, the dynamic and glamorous Iro Myrianthousis, whose family had large trading interests in West Africa. She was a journalist in her own right, the editor of the *Lagos Weekly*. Her Greek connections revived his interest in the Greek classics.

Meanwhile, Hunt was appointed High Commissioner in Cyprus, then in a state of virtual civil war. With his fluent Greek - he spoke seven lan-

guages ("after the first two it's easy") - and his excellent rapport with the charismatic Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios, he helped to stabilise Anglo-Cypriot relations. From Cyprus he returned to Africa, as High Commissioner in Lagos, Nigeria and, from that standpoint, regarding the unity of that nation as paramount, directly and through the Wilson government, steadfastly supported the Nigerian government led by General Gowon throughout the Biafran civil war. In so doing he suffered considerable obloquy from large sections of parliament and the press.

His last diplomatic appointment

In 1987 he became Mastermind of Masterminds. It was a matter, he said, of reading and keeping one's nerve

was as Ambassador to Brazil. Here, he and his wife were an extremely popular couple and despite the necessity always to be accompanied by bodyguards, because of the constant fear of kidnapping, managed to bring out Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev and the entire Royal Ballet. Later, he described Brazil as the best time of his life, so much so he wrote a book *On the Spot: an ambassador remembers* (1975) about this.

His retirement from diplomatic life, in 1973, was but the beginning of a new phase of activity for Hunt. Diversely, he was director of the *Observer* newspaper, chairman of the Governors of the Commonwealth Institute, President of the Institute of



Hunt won *Mastermind* in 1977 with the highest score ever achieved in a final

BBC

Hellenic Studies. He became a regular and disputatious book reviewer for the *TLS* and other papers and wrote books. *A Don at War* (1966) was an outstanding success. His love of military history was reflected in his drafting of the history of the Italian Campaign. He edited the *Times Yearbook of World Affairs* from 1978 until 1981. Together, he and his wife produced several lavishly illustrated historical books, the last of this series being *Caterina Cornaro, Queen of Cyprus* (1989) - this title, also, was that of the opera which the Hunts sponsored at the Festival Hall this summer.

Hunt had great presence and always looked the part, never more so

than when in 1977 he entered the BBC TV competition *Mastermind*. With his prodigious memory he won and became a celebrity overnight. In 1987 he became *Mastermind* of *Masterminds* in its 10th anniversary contests. He modestly explained his winning as a matter of reading and keeping one's nerve.

A bon vivant, a peerless host, David Hunt enjoyed life. He loved his music, his roses, his claret and his dogs, Rio and Apollo, but, above all, he loved his wife, who brought him so much happiness throughout his second marriage. She survives him, together with his two sons.

Avril Mollison

David Wathen Stather Hunt, diplomat: born 25 September 1913; OBE 1943; Private Secretary to Clement Attlee 1950-51; to Winston Churchill 1951-52; Deputy High Commissioner for the UK, Lahore 1954-56; Head of the Central African Department, Commonwealth Relations Office 1956-59; Assistant Under-Secretary of State 1959-60; CMG 1959, KCMG 1963; Deputy High Commissioner in Uganda 1962-65; in Cyprus 1965-67; in Nigeria 1967-69; Ambassador to Brazil 1969-73; married, 1948 Pamela Medawar (two sons); 1968 Iro Myrianthousis; died London 30 July 1998.

Professor Michael Kitson

WILLOWY, DIFFIDENT, fastidious, literary: these were the observable traits of a number of art historians teaching at the Courtauld Institute 40 years ago; but they belonged most of all to Michael Kitson, who was a Lecturer and Reader there from 1955 to 1978, and Professor from 1978 until the time of his retirement in 1985, as Deputy Director, to become Adjunct Professor at Yale University and Director of Studies at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art in London.

Not, we might think, the career of a diffident man; yet certainly that of a diffident scholar, who never ventured to write a major book (the long-awaited and long-pending volume on British 19th-century painting for *The Pelican History of Art* was finally abandoned), although he had assembled the ingredients of several major books, wrote many ground-breaking articles and exhibition catalogues and stimulated several of his students to write important monographs.

Kitson saw himself perhaps first of all as a teacher. He relished the direct contact with other minds that teaching brings. While he never sought to mould his pupils' thought, he spared no pains to clarify, and to persuade them to clarify, his expression. This fastidious and literary cast of mind was perhaps to be expected in a descendant of Anthony Trollope;



and it was to be reinforced at Gresham's School, in Norfolk, by a Leavisite teacher, Denis Thompson. Cambridge English followed, with an Exhibition at King's College, where Foster and Leavis were the dominant figures. Kitson was not much attracted to a Leavisite style of moralising, but he saw literature - and of course visual art - as concerned first of all with the establishment of values. His sense of the classical values of visual organisation were nourished after Cambridge not only by the Courtauld Institute, then a centre for Renaissance and Baroque studies, but also at the Slade School of Art, where he

held his first teaching appointment under the professorship of William Coldstream. His belief in *l'ideale classico* (the title of an exhibition at Bologna in 1962, to which Kitson made a notable contribution) is nowhere clearer than in his life-long devotion to the art of Claude Lorrain.

"Lifelong" and "devotion" are, in Kitson's case, no conventional exaggerations. As a schoolboy he would cycle from Gresham's to see the Claudes at Holkham Hall, more than 20 miles there and back. One of his most recent publications was the mastery (and substantial) article on Claude for the *Macmillan Dictionary of Art*; and he was working at his death on an article on the birth date of this painter, characteristic of his minute and scrupulous scholarship. From the 1960s Kitson established himself as a leading authority on Claude, and he might have become the leading authority had not an early collaborator, Marcel Roethlisberger, been less diffident than he, and gone to press with catalogues of both the paintings and the drawings.

Kitson's reasons for loving Claude are nowhere better expressed than in the catalogue of the important exhibition he arranged for the Arts Council at the Hayward Gallery, London, in 1969:

The first quality necessary to the enjoyment of Claude's art is patience. He is

not a painter who offers instant sensations, who appeals by the intricacy of his narratives or who cuts through to the spectator's emotions with some acute psychological insight. He does not transport the spectator in imagination up to heaven - although he does not either deal merely in the here and now. The process of coming to terms with his work is one of careful adjustment, of opening oneself to the harmonies in which he specialises... His art is subtle, elusive and hard to describe, but marvellously clear to the eye.

Here was practical criticism at its most engaged. Kitson wrote on many artists, on Caravaggio, on Rembrandt, on Salvador Rosa (the "diametrical opposite" of Claude, and also the subject of a remarkable exhibition in 1973), on Turner and on Constable. In the case of these English painters he was, again, particularly concerned to define their relationship to Claude. On Constable he was one of the first art historians to make serious use of the rich documentation, both visual and written, which was emerging in the 1950s; and it was one of Kitson's pupils, Michael Rosenthal, who later wrote the first major modern study of Constable's early work.

Kitson's emphasis on the subjective response, on the personal encounter with the best works of the best masters, might seem to be at odds with the dominant styles of art-historical research and writing over the

past 30 years, where ideological and contextual issues have been thrust increasingly into the foreground. But this would leave an incomplete impression of his interests. As early as 1968, Kitson's edition of an important, but maddeningly sketchy, manuscript by Hogarth, the *Apology for Painters*, included what must be one of the earliest discussions of the commodification of painting in England in the 18th century, and this interest in the infrastructure of art deepened during his time as Director of Studies at the Mellon Centre.

In 1989 he arranged the pioneering conference "Towards a Modern Art World", whose papers were published in 1995 as the first of the Mellon series *Studies in British Art*. He was also closely involved in the organisation, selection and cataloguing of the two major panoramic exhibitions of the post-war period to present British art from the 17th to the 19th centuries to a European public, at Paris in 1972 and at Munich in 1979. But it would be wrong to focus exclusively on Kitson's public achievements. He was also a generous and supportive friend, and it was mainly in support of his many friends that he took on a leading (and formative) role in the Turner Society and the Courtauld Institute Association of Former Students. He loved company, especially the company of women; and he

was very good company himself. I well recall a hot summer night at a café in Naples when the conversation continued well after closing time, and the piazza had emptied. Yet he was neither an intimate nor an excitable talker; hints of diffidence were always there in the gentle grunts of assent (or, in a rather higher register, of scepticism), and in the slight recoil of surprise at a questionable idea, when his spectacles were used as a sort of shield.

Michael Kitson's private life was private, as well as being more turbulent than his public career; but as a scholar and teacher, measure was, I think, the measure of him. He felt closest to what he characterised as classical aesthetics, whose "laws are the humanist ones of proportion and relationship".

John Gage

Michael William Lely Kitson, art historian: born Sutton, Surrey 30 January 1926; Assistant Lecturer in History of Art, Slade School of Art 1952-54; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of Art 1955-67; Reader 1967-78; Professor 1978-85; Deputy Director 1980-85; Fellow 1985-98; Director of Studies, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art 1986-92; married 1950 Annabella Cloudsley (two sons); died London 7 August 1998.

Professor Richard Hiscocks

RICHARD HISCOCKS was one of the pre-war generation of young men who, after war service, went or remained in the public sector, before taking up posts at the new or provincial universities. Among them were Michael Balfour at East Anglia, Robert Cecil at Reading, A.J. Ryder at Lampeter and Hiscocks at Sussex. They were native Britons who were fascinated by Germany and Central Europe and attempted to analyse developments there in the post-war period.

Hiscocks was born in north London and attended Highgate School and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he read History. From there he went as an assistant master to Trinity College School, in the small community of Port Hope, on the northern shore of Lake Ontario. He remained in this rural community in Canada until he left for the sophistication, excitement and turmoil of Berlin in 1932.

Hiscocks got to Berlin Universi-

ty to do postgraduate studies at the very time it was being taken over by the Nazis. British students were more than welcome. Indeed, the Nazis hoped to persuade them of the achievements of the "National Socialist Revolution".

On his return from Germany in 1936 he took up a post at Bradford College, Berkshire, followed by a year at Marlborough (1939-40). Hiscocks spent the Second World War with the Royal Marines, achieving the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He took part in the evacuation of Crete and went on to serve in the Far East.

His knowledge of German and the Germans was appreciated by the British Military Government in Germany which was desperately short of German-speakers and administrators. Hiscocks was installed as Governor of Dannenberg near Lüneburg, northern Germany, in 1945. The town's population had swollen from 41,176 in 1939 to nearly 69,000 by the end of the war.

There were thousands of evacuees and refugees who needed accommodation. This was his major problem. Deciding who to trust and who not to trust was at least as important.

Hiscocks next challenge was as British Council representative in occupied Austria, 1946-49. It was the world of *The Third Man*, of black-market dealers, agents, opportunists, refugees and Cold War intrigue.

Austria was officially a victim of the Nazis but it was under Four-Power occupation. The British Council had a political role as well as a cultural one. Of course it was promoting British culture, revealing to a nation cut off from outside influences what had been going on in Britain since Austria had become part of Hitler's Reich in 1938. But, just as important, the council was competing with the Soviets for the hearts and minds of the Austrians. It is usually credited with having done a good job, with nothing like the resources of the Americans.

Hiscocks had another British Council assignment in South India, 1949-50, before taking up an academic career. In 1950 he was appointed Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. He remained there until 1964.

It was during this period that he completed his *The Rebirth of Austria* (1953), *Democracy in Western Germany* (1957) and *Poland: bridge for the abyss?* (1963). The second of these volumes was probably the best known. He presented an optimistic picture at a time when there were still, quite understandably, many doubters. His books were readably free of the jargon that often bedevils academic works. In Canada he also cultivated his interest in art and served as President of Winnipeg Art Gallery from 1959 to 1960.

Hiscocks returned to Britain in 1964 to join Sussex University as Professor of International Relations. Founded in 1961 at Brighton, Sussex

was the first of the new 1960s universities. Hiscocks used his considerable contacts in London and around the world to promote his field and the university. During this final period of his career his *Germany Revived* (1966), which was based on his earlier work, appeared.

He was a visiting Fellow at Princeton University in 1970-71 and a Fellow of the Adlai Stevenson Institute of International Affairs, Chicago, in 1971-72. These fellowships enabled him to write *The Security Council: a study in adolescence* published in 1973. This last work reflected his long support for the United Nations. He had served as a UK member of the UN Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and was for many years Vice-President of the United Nations Association.

In retirement Hiscocks kept up his strong interest in music, being an enthusiastic concert goer. He also



listed gardening among his recreations. This he pursued at his home in Hunworth in Norfolk.

David Childs

Charles Richard Hiscocks, political scientist: born London 1 June 1907; Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Manitoba 1950-64; Professor of International Relations, Sussex University 1964-72 (Emeritus); died 2 July 1998.

Constance Cox

IN THE late Fifties and early Sixties, many television viewers who had come to enjoy the cosiness of the BBC's Sunday afternoon classic serials were unprepared for the shocking realism portrayed in Constance Cox's 1962 dramatisation of *Oliver Twist*. She adapted the Charles Dickens tale to reflect the gloom and depravity present in the backstreets of 19th-century London and when, in the final episode, Bill Sikes brutally murdered Nancy, a storm of protest followed.

The 13-part serial, which included in its cast Max Adrian as Fagin, Melvyn Hayes as the Artful Dodger, Peter Vaughan as Sikes and Carmel McSharry as Nancy, was a high point in the career of one of the pioneers of television adaptations. The response to *Oliver Twist* was not out of keeping with the criticism to which she had grown accustomed in becoming one of the first writers to turn literary masterpieces into dramatisations for the then fledgling medium of television, which some regarded as being trivial and unworthy of such material.

Later, she was one of those who turned John Galsworthy's epic novel *The Forsyte Saga* into a television serial that helped to give BBC2 a critically and publicly acclaimed programme of wide appeal in its early years on the air.

Born in Sutton, Surrey, in 1912, Cox wrote a costume drama for a local Women's Institute at the age of 16, before penning a three-act farce for the Brighton Amateur Operatic Society two years later. While working as a postmistress in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, during the Second World War she found her first West End success with *The Romance of David Carrick* (St James's Theatre, 1942), charting the exploits in love of the celebrated 18th-century British actor-manager. It was staged by another famous actor-manager, Donald Wolfit, who accepted the play from Cox just a week after her husband, a fighter pilot, had been killed over the Channel.

Moving to Brighton, she helped her mother and sister in their tobacconist's shop but continued to write plays such as *The Boy from Belfast* (1944), *Remember Dick Sheridan* (1944) and *Madame Bovary* (1945) before her adaptation of *Vanity Fair* (Comedy Theatre, 1946) became a West End hit and enabled Cox to take up writing full-time.

Her many stage adaptations included *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1948), *Northanger Abbey* (1949), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1949), *Mansfield Park* (1950), *The Woman in White* (1952), *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* (1952), *Quo Vadis* (1955) and *Wuthering Heights* (1974), and she wrote the book for *Two Cities*, a musical version of *A Tale of Two Cities* (Palace Theatre, 1969), starring Edward Woodward as Sydney Carton.

Novels of the 18th and 19th centuries were Cox's favourites. Among the classic serials she wrote for the BBC were *Jane Eyre*, which she adapted both in 1956 and 1968, the first time winning the News Chronicle Award for Best Television Play, *Pride and Prejudice* (1960), *Lorna Doone* (1963), *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1964, winner of the Television and Screenwriters Award), and *A Tale of Two Cities* (1968). She also won an American Screenwriters Guild award for her television adaptations.

When, in 1967, BBC2 was looking for a television event to persuade more viewers to adjust their sets to receive the channel, which had started three years earlier, it decided to produce *The Forsyte Saga*, John Galsworthy's tale of a family of London merchants from the 1870s to the 1920s. Cox was one of the writers chosen to adapt individual episodes of the 26-part serial. It starred Kenneth More as Jolyon Forsyte, who walked away from his inheritance by leaving his wife for his pregnant mistress, Eric Porter as his cousin, the brutal lawyer Soames Forsyte, and Nynae Dawn Porter as Soames's first wife, Irene. Although all the episodes formed a long-running story, each was presented as an act in itself.

The programme was the most expensive drama the BBC had ever produced, with a budget of £250,000, and became an instant hit. It was repeated on BBC1 the following year and enjoyed another two repeat runs. When it was screened in America, *Time* magazine proclaimed it "the greatest soap opera ever filmed". However, as the last major drama to be made in black-and-white, it did not become a long-term best-seller, although it opened the door to foreign sales of future BBC productions.

Cox also adapted several classics into radio serials, including *War and Peace*, *The Barchester Chronicles* and *Pickwick Papers*. Since her early days of dramatising much-loved novels for television, with many critics looking on sceptically, the medium has made some notable productions and, in recent years, period dramas based on literary classics have become an industry in themselves.

Anthony Hayward

Constance Shanon, playwright and dramatist: born Sutton, Surrey 25 October 1912; married Norman Cox (died 1942); died 8 July 1998.

JP 11/10/50

Constance Cox

Lillian Hoban

LILLIAN HOBAN was one of America's best-loved illustrators of children's books. Born Lillian Aberman and brought up in Philadelphia, she always wanted to be an artist, starting classes at the local Graphic Sketch Club at the age of 14 before going on to win a scholarship to the Philadelphia Museum School of Art. Majoring in illustration, it was here she met her husband Russell Hoban, also studying to be an illustrator.

After marriage the couple moved to New York, where Lillian gave up art in order to study dance at the Hanyu Holm School and later with Martha Graham. During the 1930s she appeared on television as a dancer and also worked as an instructor in modern dance. But after the birth of her third child she settled down with Russell, who by now had changed to writing, into what was to become a prolific and successful author-illustrator team.

Moving to Wilton, Connecticut, along with four children, a Newfoundland dog and a Maine Coon cat, the Hobans produced a series of best-selling picture books featuring Frances, a small but determined child badger. She is regular, known having to cope with some of the common problems and dilemmas of childhood, often suggested to the couple from experience with their own children.

In *Bedtime for Frances* (1960) she makes excuses for not going to sleep, and in *A Baby Sister for Frances* (1964) she decides to run away (in fact, for only a few inches under the family table) when she believes her baby sister Gloria is getting all the attention. In *A Birthday for Frances* (1968), she suffers from jealousy when the family celebrates the same sister's birthday.

These plots could have provided yet one more dreary addition to those self-consciously "bibliotherapeutic" titles solemnly designed at the time to help children adjust to various difficult situations. But the affection and high good-humour running through the Frances books is immediately recognisable in Russell's text and Lillian's affectionate and gentle black-and-white pencil drawings. Frances is every human child living in an ordinary house surrounded by familiar domestic objects. She is also a badger, and to that extent outside the class, colour and gender issues that can limit a young reader's easy identification with a purely human picture-book character. Most important of all, she is drawn with complete conviction.

Lillian once wrote, "When I sit down in the studio to work on a book, I have exactly the same feeling of concentration and complete engagement that I had as a child when I first started to



Frances thought about Gloria and the Chompo Bar, and while she thought she put two of the bubble-gum balls into her mouth without noticing it.

Illustration by Lillian Hoban for Russell Hoban's *A Birthday for Frances* (Jonathan Cape)

paint and draw." This total devotion to the task shows particularly in her attention to detail and the way in which Frances's body language is made to indicate exactly how she is feeling. Children on both sides of the Atlantic have loved these stories, still in print today.

In 1967 Lillian illustrated her husband's masterpiece, *The Mouse and his Child*, using colour for the cover but reverting to ink drawings in the text. Her pictures add wonderfully to this subtle but memorable story, with the outside villain Manny the Rat menacingly over-

shadowing the father and son couple who finally win through against the odds. By now the Hobans, who had moved to London in 1968, were having their own problems. They divorced in 1976, and soon after Lillian began drawing and writing stories about a chimpanzee and his little sister. The last of this series, *Arthur's Birthday Party*, is due to be published at the end of this year, joining the other hundred or so titles written and/or illustrated by Lillian Hoban over a period of nearly 40 years.

A frequent award-winner, she leaves behind one of the most distinguished lists of any contemporary American illustrator. She will also be remembered with gratitude by the many schoolchildren she encouraged to read and write through her participation in the National Arts Club creative writing programme.

Nicholas Tucker

Lillian Aberman, illustrator: born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 18 May 1925; married 1944 Russell Hoban (one son, three daughters; marriage dissolved 1975); died New York 17 July 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES KENNETH R. JOHNSTON

Did Wordsworth take the King's shilling?



Poet of daffodils and espionage

THE NAME "Wordsworth" appears in two secret Home Office memoranda, one from 1797, the other 1798. The first is undoubtedly that of the great Romantic poet, at the time an unknown 27-year-old suspected of nefarious doings by his neighbours in Somerset. The Duke of Portland, then Home Secretary, sent an agent to investigate. He reported that the suspicious people were "a gang of disaffected Englishmen", and that the name of one was "Wordsworth, a name I think known to Mr Ford". Richard Ford was the key person linking the Home and Foreign offices, the liaison by which Portland created his new "secret service".

The second mention occurs in Portland's secret paybook, recording a payment of £32 12s to "Mr Wordsworth" on 13 June 1799 - six weeks after William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy returned from a seven-month sojourn in Germany. The name above Wordsworth's in this entry is Richard Ford. The name below it is Sir James Crawford, the British chargé d'affaires in Hamburg. Strong circumstantial evidence connects these two mentions of the name Wordsworth in Home Office records, establishing that he was known by Portland and his agents from the time he lived near Coleridge in Somerset until he returned "home" to Grasmere in 1799. Further research and interpretation will establish - or disprove - that Portland's "Mr Wordsworth" is "our" Wordsworth, the poet of daffodils and imagination, who died as Poet Laureate in 1850.

What to make of these new facts, supposing them to be true and accurate? They have considerable implications for Wordsworth's reputation, estimates of his poetry and of his biographical character. Coming from the United States, which many Europeans seem to consider the Land of Political Correctness, I have been surprised at a different PC reaction from some British readers. They seem to think it impossible that Wordsworth could have been involved in such dealings. Or, if they must accept that he was, their faith in his poetic stature is badly shaken. One reviewer suggested that Wordsworth could not have written *The Prelude* if he was a spy in Germany. A man at the "Ways with Words" festival in Darlington told me that if Wordsworth had "taken the King's

shilling", he would never be able to read his poetry in the same way again.

I would hope so. Wordsworth's development is more exciting and dramatic than we have been led to believe, principally by the poet himself, in *The Prelude*, his magnificently crafted autobiographical epic. But the point is not that he was therefore a liar, a faker, and a cheat. Revelations about his 1792 love affair and illegitimate child with Annette Vallon, first published in the 1920s, caused similar over-reactions. But most readers have by now accepted it, and they will have to do the same, willy-nilly, with his Home Office connections. Wordsworth's co-operation with Pitt's government simply confirms his abandoning of revolutionary principles and, by extension, the complexities of "genius" with established power up and down the length of British and American literary history.

Rather than political correctness of either sort, this new information requires interpretation. If Wordsworth was a "spy", is he guilty of "treachery and desertion in the place / The holiest that I knew of, my own soul" (*The Prelude* x, 379-80)? The answer for me has been that the actions, poetical, political, and otherwise, by which he created his marvellous image of the Poet as "a man speaking to me... bringing everywhere with him relationship and love" were more difficult and challenging than we have realised.

Kenneth R. Johnston is the author of *The Hidden Wordsworth: poet, lover, rebel, spy* (W.W. Norton, £30)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

KEATINGE: Sir Edgar Mayne, OBE (Mile), on 7 August 1998, peacefully at Harnham Croft Nursing Home, Salisbury, in his 94th year. Private family cremation. Memorial service to be arranged at Telford Evis.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal opens two new specialist centres at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, Devon; and visits the InterCeltic WaterSports Festival, Bude, Cornwall.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST

The following have been granted commissions in the Regiments and Corps shown, having successfully completed Commissioning Course No 973. The Sword of Honour was won by Junior Under Officer G.M. Lincoln-Hope and the Queen's Medal was won by Officer Cadet T.R. Robb.

A.D. Adams; C.B. Adams; J.N. Addison; S.M. Smith; A.I. Ashborne; R.A. Atkinson; A.C.H. Allcock; P.J. Allcock; M.D. Anderson; A.C. Ayres; S.C. Bick; H. Bick; J.F. Barry; E.J. Beldar; N.D.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Bernard Ashley, honorary life president, Laura Ashley, 72; Sir Richard Barratt, former Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 70; Mr Don Boyd, film director, 50; Sir Geoffrey Cass, Chairman, Royal Shakespeare Company, 66; Miss Arlene Dahl, actress, 74; Mr David Day, Principal, St John's College, Durham University, 62; Mr James Eaton, Lord-Lieutenant, County Borough of Londonderry, 71; Professor John Fincham, geneticist, 72; Professor Bob Hepple, Master of Clare College, Cambridge, 64; Professor Alan Hoddinott, composer, 69; Professor Derry Jeffares, editor and critic, 78; Sir Anthony Hughes, High Court judge, 50; Sir Aaron King, molecular biologist, 72; Mr Raymond Leppard, conductor, 71; Mr Martin Linton MP, 54; Mr David Logan, ambassador to Turkey, 55; Miss Anna Massey, actress, 61; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald, 65; Miss Jean Parker, actress, 88; Sir Michael Quinlan, Director, Ditchley Foundation, 68; Dame Angela Rumbold, former MP, 66; Mr Thomas Taaffe, racehorse trainer, 65; The Right Rev James Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 62; Lord

Varley, former government minister, 66; Mr Tamas Vasary, pianist and conductor, 65.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Richard Mead, physician, 1673; Joseph Nollekens, sculptor, 1737; Joseph Schuster, composer, 1748; Jean-Victor-Marie Moreau, general, 1763; Rowland Hill, first Viscount Hill, general, 1772; John Christian Schetky, marine painter, 1778; Charlotte Mary Yonge, novelist, 1823; Marie-François Sadi Carnot, engineer and statesman, 1837; Christiana Eijkman, physician, 1858; Helen Broderick, actress and comedienne, 1891; Hugh MacDiarmid (Christopher Murray Grieve), poet, 1892; Enid Mary Glynn, children's writer, 1897.

Deaths: John I. King of Portugal, 1433; Janos Corvinus Hunyadi, Hungarian leader, 1456; Hans Memling, painter, 1496; Johan Tebbel, Dominican monk and seller of indulgences, 1519; Ottavio Piccolomini, Duke of Amalfi, military commander, 1656; Arthur Elphinstone, sixth Baron Balmorino, executed, 1748; Sir James James Pye, poet, 1813; Sir Samuel Anchemy, general, 1822; Marshall Hall,

physiologist, 1857; James Wilson, founder of the Economist, 1860; Richard Monckton Milnes, first Baron Houghton, MP and poet, 1885; John Henry Newman, Cardinal, 1890; Andrew Carnegie, industrialist and philanthropist, 1919; Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida, painter, 1923; Edith Newbold Jones Wharton, novelist, 1937; Paul Jackson Pollock, abstract painter, 1956.

On this day: Sir Martin Frohisher entered the bay now named after him, 1576; the Battle of Passero Cape was fought when Admiral Byng attacked the Spanish fleet, 1718; Penang was ceded to Britain by the Rajah of Kedah, 1786; during severe earthquakes in the Azores, the village of Sao Miguel sank, 1810; the bridge at Walton-on-Thames collapsed, 1859; the "moons" of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, were discovered by Professor Asaph Hall, astronomer, 1877; after the collapse of a burning bridge, 81 passengers in a train were killed, 1887; the Atlantic Charter was signed by Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt, 1941; the new Waterloo Bridge, London, was opened to traffic, 1942;

King Talal of Jordan was deposed because of his mental illness, 1952; King Hussein succeeded to the throne of Jordan, 1952; the French colony of Chad became independent, 1960; in Bangladesh, monsoon floods resulted in the deaths of over 2,000 people, 1974; a burst dam on the Manchou river, Morvi, Gujarat, India, resulted in the deaths of over 5,000 people, 1979.

Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander of Comana, St Attracta or Araghi, St Blane, St Clare of Assisi, St Equitius, St Gerard of Gallinara, St Gery or Gaugericus, St Lelia, St Susanna and St Tiburtius.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "Flight of Titian, The Virgin and Child with Saint John the Baptist and a Female Saint", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Timothy Wilcox, "The Sheepshanks Collection", 2pm. British Museum: Kim Sloan, "R.W. Lloyd's Turner Watercolours: 'In pursuit of perfection'", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Peter Hughes, "French Long-Case Clocks", 1pm.

Reign of silence at the Foreign Office

IN HIS continuing battle to establish that the last inmate of Spandau jail, Prisoner No 7, was not Rudolf Hess but an impostor, the Welsh surgeon Hugh Thomas has written to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, dismissing the Government's latest attempt to refute his claim as "astounding nonsense".

He believes the real Hess was shot down on the night of 10 May 1941 as he tried to fly to Scotland, and that an impostor came in another aircraft from Denmark. The architect of the deception was Himmler, who had been watching Hess's attempts to open peace negotiations with England; on the night, he had Hess shot down and sent in the double with the aim of making peace on his own terms. The scheme collapsed because the British realised that the lone pilot was not Hess. The unexpected arrival put Churchill in a difficult position. He did not know where the real Hess was or what had happened. Thomas insists that, although it was forgivable to conceal the truth in wartime, there was no reason to do so once peace had come. As for the persistence of the conspiracy until now, he concludes that the Government cannot bring itself to admit that a grotesque mistake was made.

Thomas's key evidence concerns the wound suffered by the real Hess in August 1917, when he was shot through the left lung by a rifle bullet. The injury put him in hospital for four months, and ended his career in the infantry; it is authenticated by military records and by Hess's own letters, which

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

11 AUGUST 1988

Hugh Thomas, a surgeon, argues that the Rudolf Hess who died in August 1987 was an impostor, and the Government is engaged in a cover-up

describe it as "a clean through-shot, in beneath the left shoulder and out through the back". Thomas himself examined the prisoner in Berlin during 1978, and was astonished to find no sign of any such injury. When he asked what had happened to the war wounds - "weren't they even skin deep?" - the prisoner turned chalk-white and began to shake so violently that Thomas feared he might have a heart attack. All he replied was, "Zu spät, zu spät" ("Too late, too late").

After the man's death, in August 1987, two post-mortem reports, one British, one German, confirmed the absence of internal damage: the lungs showed minor scarring caused by TB, but not the track of dead tissue that a bullet would have left. In the crucial matter of external scars, the reports differed. Dr J.M. Cameron, the British army pathologist, recorded "an old scar on the left side of the chest". The Munich pathologist Dr Wolfgang Spann reported two scars in the same spot. The history of these is well

known. They were made on the night of 4 February 1945 in Abergavenny, when the prisoner pulled a fold of skin away from his chest and pushed a bread-knife through it. He pretended that he had tried to stab himself in the heart, but the damage was superficial.

In an attempt to make the Government face what he considers unsatisfactory medical evidence, Mr Thomas enlisted the help of Dr David Owen, who wrote to the Foreign Secretary asking for an explanation. In his reply, Sir Geoffrey Howe maintains that the twin knife scars inflicted in 1945 had disappeared by the time the prisoner died. This, according to Thomas, is directly disproved by the evidence of Dr Spann.

Sir Geoffrey claims that the "old scar" recorded by Dr Cameron was identified in 1979 by an anonymous "specialist in wound ballistics" as being the result of the First World War rifle bullet. "What seems to escape the Foreign Office," says Thomas, "is that, if a rifle bullet had gone into Hess's chest at the point described by Cameron, it would have hit his heart and killed him." Thomas now appears to be gaining support on other fronts. In a review of Thomas's book (*Hess: a tale of two murders*) in the *Spectator*, the Cambridge historian John Zarnetta wrote that Thomas's claim "will now be very difficult to challenge", and that the conclusion reached by Thomas is "inescapable: the last prisoner of Spandau was Hess's double, his Doppelgänger."

Duff Hart-Davis
From *'The Independent'*, Thursday 11 August 1988

COMBINING A suggestion of both pedagogue and pedastrian, pedant has become the word we apply to anyone showing a ponderous attention to academic detail. Shakespeare and Ben Jonson used the word with no derogatory intent as a synonym for teacher, which would seem to confirm the OED's claim

WORDS WILLIAM HARTSTON pedant, n.

that the word stems from the Italian *pedante*, a schoolmaster. Yet if the original meaning was much the same as pedagogue, one might expect at

least some classically educated Englishmen to have adopted the spelling *pedant*, but there is no evidence of that ever having happened. The same Italian word, *pedante*, however, also meant "travelling on foot", so perhaps the picture of a pedestrian pedagogue is not so far from the mark.

The charity workers suing Sally Becker for putting them at risk are missing the point. By Chelsea Renton

This is, of course, all slightly perverse. But who doesn't seek a little bit of adventure and glory? I remember holding out for days on end in a besieged enclave in Bosnia, yearning for the day when I would

■ Do not lose your sense of perspective. Your country may not presently be suffering a natural or man-made disaster. But do not then presume that others will be grateful for your insights into multi-racial harmony and the merits of democracy. Just remember that in a few years' time, you could be on the receiving

■ Finally, don't expect others to be interested in your adventures. You may have a maximum of five minutes in the pub, provided you avoid phrases such as "gender awareness," "women's groups," "psycho-social work" or "grassroots." Neither should you expect anyone to be acquainted with the detail. I enlightened a taxi-driver on the way back from Heathrow about my contribution to regional stability in the Balkans, pausing for adequate recognition. Sighing, he said: "Ooh, I do feel sorry for all those poor little black kids."



Mike Moore

Stephen Powell's new play was inspired by his father's experiences at Her Majesty's pleasure. By **John Crace**

When asked to be more specific, Powell comes over uncharacteristically coy, because it's clear that he has got away with far more than



Andrew Buurman

He abandoned crime after serving his last six-year sentence and expresses relief at not having to look over his shoulder these days, but he admits that life has become a bit - well - dull. "I only used to feel alive when I was up to some shulduggery," he confides. "I used to love going down the pub in a new car, wearing a £200 suit and a gold watch."

Brian got his first sentence. "My first inclination was not to tell Stephen anything," says Brian. "So on his first visit, I got my wife to take his glasses off as he walked in the prison so he wouldn't be able to read where he was. When he asked me what I was doing I said I was working on top-secret government business. After they left, I congratulated myself on how well the visit had gone off. But the more I thought about it, the more I realised how badly I'd handled it. I didn't want him told about his dad by someone else; I wanted him to know about me from me."

son because I had done something wrong, and that he didn't want to end up like me." Which he hasn't, and neither have his brother and sister.

"I did feel a bit ashamed about my dad being inside, and I missed him," says Stephen. "But if I'm honest, I did feel a tinge of excitement about his lifestyle. There was a time when Dad had to keep out of sight, and there were knocks on the door at odd times. The police would turn up unexpectedly and we constantly worried whether the phone was tapped."

"I cottoned on quite quickly that the criminal justice system was a joke," he says. "People like my father never get treated fairly. No one was

So what is "enough"? Will Mary Bell's daughter's life be improved by the knowledge that her mother killed two children 30 years ago? Clearly a good relationship depends on some emotional honesty and trust, but perhaps the critical question any parent should ask themselves before risking disclosure is this: For whose benefit am I being so open? Mine or my child? This is the minefield that Brian and Stephen Powell successfully negotiated more than 25 years ago.

'Tooled Up' is at the Pleasance Theatre, Edinburgh until 31 August (0131-556 6550)

9. FISHING VESTS

BY ANNALISA BARBIERI

art from this
jolly usefulness, I love
the way the FW with LOP
makes me look like a war
correspondent. In this fight of
fancy I take a phone call that
ends with me shouting "I'm on
my way" and grabbing the
waistcoat that has all I'll need
for a three-month posting. On
fishing trips, I like to swagger
down to a hotel breakfast
wearing it, its nice sandy
colour contrasted by my all-
black fishing outfit. Like a
Fisher-Price activity mat, the
FW has lot of textures to feel
and bits to noll!

When I got my FW (or, to give it its kennel name, my Patagonia Fishing Re-Invest), I wondered whatever I would do with all these pockets, so I would put one stick of chewing gum in each zippered/Velcroed

fantastic
surgical-looking
kit, such as clippers and
forceps, which you attach with
snatch-backs. These operate-
like tape measures that snatch
back the tape. This is so you
don't lose your clippers and
forceps on the river bank, but
it adds to the Fisher-Price-ness
of it all and gives extra value
for money, for a good FW - not
some pretend "leisure
waitcoat" that you get in
Sunday supplements - costs
about £100.

What you must never, never do when you get an FW is actually count the pockets. The joy is in the discovery. And what you must never, never do if you see another fisherman with an FW with LOP is ask him how many pockets his FW has. This is very bad manners and won't do at all.

Rock'n



...like 1950s. Also...the...the...

HEALTH
CHECK



JEREMY
LAURANCE

IT WAS the first screening test I had had and, in a small way, it changed my life. One of the perks of my previous job was a regular check-up with BUPA. I only went once, not because I felt unwell, but because I was interested in the cholesterol test.

There is heart disease in my family so I had for years taken the advice on diet seriously. You know - muesli for the oats, fruit for the anti-oxidants and margarine because it's got less of that artery-clogging animal fat.

I had the test and the result was impressive: 3.8 mmols per litre, about half that of some of my less abstemious friends and 50 per cent below the national average of about 6 mmols.

I was so encouraged that I made an immediate decision: I switched to butter. It was the only change I made as a result of the battery of tests and measurements I underwent that morning. Not the kind of outcome BUPA had in mind, I imagine.

I have always loved butter. Giving it up was tough but a man must make sacrifices if he is to live to see his fledgling family (as it then was) grow up. The BUPA test released me from my self-denial. It was bliss.

It may be less blissful for my arteries. A screening test intended to promote health had, in my case, the opposite effect. A recent report from the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York warned that cholesterol screening was mostly worthless and could make people who found they had a high level but no other symptoms feel ill as a result.

Equally it can make people with a low level, such as me, complacent. This is a pervasive problem with screening programmes. They are widely seen as a shield against mortality. Instead they may open a gap for disease to attack.

How many women, having had a breast screen, have then ignored a growing lump in the belief that it couldn't be anything serious or it would have been spotted?

One of the fastest growing types of cervical cancer is adenocarcinoma, which now accounts for one in ten of all cases. But it cannot be detected by a standard smear test because the cancer starts developing high up the cervix, beyond the point from which the sample of cells is taken. False reassurance is one of the greatest dangers of screening tests.

People may think me foolish switching back to butter. In response, I cite the Alma Ata defence. At a conference in Alma Ata, Russia, in 1978 the World Health Organisation said that health should be defined as "a state of mental and physical well-being" to which all individuals and all nations should aspire. On that definition, eating butter is my duty.

If you come round during an operation, you can feel everything, but you can't scream.
What happened to June Blacker could happen to you. By Roger Dobson



The waking nightmare

It must be the worst nightmare possible; waking up during an operation, feeling the pain of the surgeon's scalpel and being too paralysed to move a finger. "It was torture and there wasn't a thing I could do about it," says 45-year-old June Blacker, in the news last week after the NHS accepted liability for the pain she suffered. She was completely paralysed yet totally aware as the operating team cut away at her abdomen. "I was trying to shout, move, do anything, but they started to probe my insides and I could feel the knife, everything."

For June, the horror of her sterilisation operation at the Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil continues; she still has flashbacks. "I wouldn't wish what happened to me on my worst enemy," she says. "I realised something was wrong when I didn't go straight off to sleep, but I couldn't tell them I wasn't asleep because I couldn't move. It was like looking at everything through a foggy haze, but I really started panicking when they were cutting me."

June is the latest of the so-called awareness cases where the patient is conscious of what is happening during an operation but unable to do anything about it. Some of the victims have been counselled and others have received treatment for post-traumatic stress as a result of their experiences in the operating theatre. Unsurprisingly, many have gone on to develop a phobia of surgery or hospitals.

In most awareness cases, the patient is only really conscious of what is happening, but sometimes they feel the full pain of the surgery, too. No one really knows just how preva-

lent awareness is - estimates vary wildly from 30,000 cases a year in the UK to one in 3,000 operations, or up to 3,000 or so a year.

The issue of awareness has arisen largely because of the increasing sophistication of anaesthesia. In the old days, life was simple, albeit more hazardous, and patients were knocked out with a high dose of drugs, which was increased if they started to come round. "In the early days of anaesthesia when you only had ether or chloroform, the only way to make a patient more relaxed was to give them more and more ether. Such high doses did relax the muscles, but they also depressed heart and breathing, and therein lay a lot of problems," says Diana Brighouse, consultant anaesthetist at Southampton University Hospital.

Nowadays, anaesthetists juggle with a combination of drugs that each do one of three separate things - keep the patient asleep, keep them pain free and relax their muscles. It's a technique that is said to be safer, and patients don't take so long to get back to normal.

As far as awareness goes, the potential villain is the neuro-muscular blocker, or muscle relaxant, a family of drugs whose effect is total paralysis. These drugs paralyse the body to the extent that even breathing has to be mechanically aided.

Not all patients get these muscle relaxants, and its main use is as part of a general anaesthetic for surgery involving the abdomen, chest, or brain, as well as some keyhole surgery where the patient needs to be motionless.

The art of this kind of anaesthesia is getting the balance right. The problem with awareness arises

ANAESTHETIC TYPES

IN SOME cases patients can be given a choice of anaesthetic, and surveys of anaesthetists have shown that if they were having an operation with a choice they would opt for local or regional anaesthetics. In the US, local and regional anaesthetics are far more widely used than in the UK.

"Patients in the US are much more accepting of being awake and having a local or regional, whereas here patients often say they would rather be asleep," says Professor Strunin.

Local anaesthetic: commonly used to block nerves locally when operating on limbs. Regional or Epidural: inject one or multiple shots of drugs into the back, outside the membranes around the spinal cord. The injected anaesthetic then goes through the membrane.

General anaesthetics: made up usually of a mix of nitrous oxide gas plus other drugs, as well as an analgesic for pain relief and sometimes a muscle relaxant.



June Blacker (above) is still traumatised; being awake during an operation is most people's worst nightmare. Rob Stratton

when this balance is lost and the patient gets too little anaesthetic or too little pain killer, or in some cases too little of each.

"Awareness is usually because inadequate amounts of drugs have been given and a muscle relaxant has been used so the patient can't move, can't respond in the normal way, and if they haven't been given enough to relieve pain, it is an extremely unpleasant experience," says Professor Leo Strunin, president of the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

He says that the drug combinations do work for most people, but that for some there will be problems. "Getting it right is matter of judgment and experience, and if something does go wrong it is not necessarily a case of making a mistake. Even the most experienced people can get it wrong," he says.

In June's case, the effects were devastating. "I could feel everything that was going on and I'm told that it probably lasted for 10 to 15 minutes but it seemed like a lifetime. I was crying out to tell them and I thought my body was moving but it wasn't, I was completely paralysed. My brain was working but my mouth and body wouldn't move. I felt the knife going and I tried to wriggle away but couldn't move. It was unbelievable pain."

"During the operation I had a cardiac arrest and I could hear the alarm on the machine and the doctors and nurses were suddenly shouting and hands being pressed up and down on my chest."

Since her ordeal, June has discovered that she is by no means alone in her awareness experience. Agnes McKeown, 46, who was fully conscious during an operation to sever nerves around her kidney, was

awarded £5,500 and vividly describes what happened to her. "There was a burning pain as they cut my back open from my shoulder to my waist. I could feel something like meat tearing. I wanted to scream but I couldn't, so I prayed."

Shropshire mother, Evelyn Cooper, aged 35, was awarded £18,000 for her pain and suffering when she was awake during a caesarian section, while Margaret Ashton, aged 30, from Doncaster, was given damages of £21,000 for her suffering during a similar operation.

A confounding problem both for anaesthetists and patients is that there is no way of monitoring awareness. There are clues, such as sweating and increased blood pressure associated with anxiety and panic. Attempts have also been made to tourniquet one arm so it is unaffected by the muscle relaxants, thus allowing a conscious patient to raise the alarm. There have also been experiments using responses to soundwaves or to electrical impulses to check on the conscious or unconscious state of the brain.

But despite the research and concern about the reported cases of awareness there is no sign yet of a foolproof method of knowing if that inert and apparently sleeping body on the table is conscious, and listening in terror to every word, and feeling every cut and thrust of the scalpel. Not much comfort for June, who is still traumatised by the event. "I have had counselling but I really do need help because I would like to get my life back to normal. How am I going to handle having another operation in the future? How will I cope? The problem is that you can never put something like that completely behind you - it's always there."

Rock'n'roll legacy of a high-pitched buzz



Rock musicians like Pete Townshend are a tinnitus high-risk group

"I've just learnt to live with it," says DAVE SIZER OF HIS AFFLICTION. SIZER, a tinnitus information officer for the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID), describes himself as a "tinnitus experience".

Tinnitus - defined as sounds occurring anywhere within the auditory canal that can't be heard by anyone else - is extremely common. The RNID estimates that it affects a billion people worldwide, and one in 10 of the UK population. The noises may be high or low-pitched, ringing, whining, hissing, or roaring.

Yet, last week, hope was raised for millions of sufferers with the unveiling of a new device. *New Scientist* reported that the American-made Aurix-3 sits behind the ear and emits vibrations, adjusted to the individual patient, which cancel out the noise heard inside.

Tinnitus, a misery for many sufferers, does yield to some forms of treatment. By Heather Welford

"Every so often, something new comes along which looks as though it may be helpful," says Catherine McKinney, an audiological scientist from London's Portland Hospital. "But when the proper clinical trials are held, it turns out not to be much of a breakthrough after all."

The placebo effect of any new therapy or gadget for tinnitus is estimated to be 40 per cent - the benefits fade away after a short time.

Tinnitus can happen out of the blue but, more commonly, something happens to set it off, though the exact cause of the condition is still unclear. "Ear damage can be a trigger," says Catherine McKinney. "Some-

times the ear damage can take place over a long time, which is why rock musicians, and people who work with noisy machinery, are at risk. But even ear syringing, or emotional upset or depression, can start it off."

In Dave Sizer's case, he was putting up some shelves at home in Nottingham five years ago. "I should have worn ear protection. I had an immediate sensation of dullness. That lasted a few days, and then the tinnitus started."

"I'm more sensitive to loud noise than I used to be. I have to carry earplugs with me, and I use them if I go into a noisy bar. I put them in to

see *Titanic* at the cinema - I had to sit in the front row and it would have been ear-splittingly loud for me."

Catherine McKinney says: "Experiments show that 94 per cent of people report tinnitus when put in a totally silent room." Two per cent of people are significantly upset by tinnitus, however, often when there are other distressing events happening in their lives.

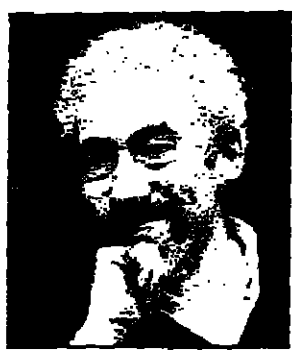
Anxiety can make it worse, says Dave Sizer. "Callers to the help line need reassurance that it won't progress, and that it's not the sign of a life-threatening illness."

There is no conventional medication for tinnitus, apart from anti-

depressants if the sufferer is thought to need them. Predictably, though, a string of alternative therapies have been tried by someone, somewhere. The tinnitus help line has a fact sheet that lists 28 of them.

Catherine McKinney's work looks beyond an electrical or herbal fix, to study the effects of directive counselling. This involves teaching the sufferer to retrain the brain either to ignore or simply not to hear the noise. It aims to tap into the ability we have in other areas of life, when we switch on to the sounds we want or need to hear, and switch off from the other ones. Mothers may wake with the sound of their baby crying, for instance, and stay asleep during a thunderstorm.

Tinnitus help line: 0345 090210, Monday to Friday, 10am-3pm



The fat man in history

Falstaff is one of the great characters of Western literature, but he is not Shakespeare's exclusive creation. As Simon Callow prepares to play him, he explores the ancient roots of a mythic figure

Simon Callow has been widely described as Shakespeare's greatest creation and his best loved character, which in the circumstances is no mean claim. The adjective "Falstaffian" has long passed into the language. We all know what it means: fat and frolicsome, gloriously drunk, bawdy, boastful, mendacious; disgraceful but irresistible; above all, fun. Not only, as he says in *Henry IV Part Two*, witty in himself, "but the cause that wit is in other men." Falstaff provokes cascades of comparisons both from critics and from his fellow characters in the play; to see him is to be irresistibly impelled to describe him.

Because of all this, we feel we are familiar with the character, comfortable with him; we know who he is. It is easy to overlook how original and unprecedented a creation Falstaff is. There is no other character in Shakespeare to match him; no other character in Western literature, as far as I am aware, quite like him. There are braggarts, innumerable sots and reprobates galore: in the theatre alone there is the *miles gloriosus*, the bragging soldier of the Roman comedy of Terence and Plautus; mischievous rogues are a staple of the city comedies of Johnson and his contemporaries; and comedy, from Aristophanes to Terry Johnson, could scarcely survive without the drunkard. There are even similar characters in Shakespeare: Parolles in *All's Well That Ends Well*, Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, elements of the Thersites of *Troilus and Cressida*. But even to mention these other characters is to affirm the uniqueness of Falstaff. In his never-failing wit, the abundance of his appetite and the bigness of his spirit, he contains - embodies, indeed - a life-force which is so overwhelming as to be beyond type, certainly beyond morality and even beyond psychology.

Above all, he is extraordinary in the two parts of *Henry IV* because of the relationship he has with the young Prince of Wales, soon to be the great warrior-king, Henry V. Here is the 17-year-old heir apparently choosing to spend his life with a debauched, besotted, monstrously fat old reprobate in an East End brothel. It is as if the young Prince Charles had slipped away from Buckingham Palace to hang out with Francis Bacon - except that Falstaff is not only debauched, he is positively criminal: he and his dubious cronies beat people up in dark alleys and take purses from innocent travellers; and the young Prince Henry is no constitutional monarch's son, he is the heir of the divinely anointed and absolute monarch, who in his very person is England. What is going on, then? Is this mere truancy? Is the boy simply getting it out of his system, sowing his wild oats? Or is there something deeper going on? It seems there is.

It would be one thing if Hal were to have taken up the company of tarts and pimps, or to be slumming around with chums of his own age and class, in the manner of Darius Guppy and the young Earl Spencer. But it is quite another for the prince to have adopted this old scoundrel not merely as a friend but as a mentor and to have extended to him every appearance of love and tenderness. What do they want from each other: this odd couple? What Falstaff gets is, in a sense, obvious: the excitement of being so close to the heir to the throne, and the opportunity to practise his habitual *l'es-ma-jeste* at the closest quarters; and the delight of being connected to youth, the most gilded youth of all, clearly has a tonic effect on the old rascal. But what does Hal want from him? Alienated from his cold, anxious, controlling and guilt-ridden father, he has chosen Falstaff as a surrogate father, an antidote to the sterilised atmosphere of the



Orson Welles' Falstaff in *Chimes of Midnight* stood for the death of Merrie England and the birth of the modern world

Kobal Collection

court. He is liberated, relieved, made to think by this fallible, permissive, funny creature of animal warmth, who inverts the pieties and the truisms he has had dimmed into him. It is with Falstaff that he discovers his humanity, the common touch which enables him to do what his father has never been

able to, to unify the kingdom and to reach out to his subjects in a way they can understand. But Falstaff is just a phase he's going through, the supervisor of his rites of passage. To have this absurd, impudent figure at his side after he has ascended his throne would be out of the question. He has to go, as Hal understands from the beginning of the play; it is not a question of whether, but of when. The scene at the coronation in which Falstaff is rejected is upsetting and necessary. Old Hal makes way for New Hal, and Falstaff is his Clause Four. There is a sense of elation at the establishment of a new order, but also a sense of the price that has to be paid. "Banish plump Jack," Falstaff says in Part One, "and banish all the world." Not all the world, perhaps, but some rich, natural, flawed, human part of it without which we are all poorer. It is this theme that Orson Welles stressed when he made his version of the two plays which, with elegant intent, he entitled *Chimes of Midnight*, focussing on the advancement towards kingship of Hal as he outgrows and outstrips both his fathers. For Welles the rejection of Falstaff was the death of Merrie England, with its natural harmony, and the birth of the modern world, wild and coldly realistic.

The heir apparent spends his time with a debauched, besotted, monstrously fat old reprobate in an East End brothel

This is a convincing and effective conception of the plays. But as so often with Shakespeare, there is a sense of something else, deeper, stranger, behind the narrative, an impression of buried rituals, ancient lore, vanished conceptions, which account for the

profundity of our response. England had undergone a profound change just before Shakespeare's lifetime with the Reformation, and it becomes more and more clear that the old faith, and the even older faith that it had absorbed, were still present, both in the dramatist's consciousness and that of his audience. The glorious, abundant, anarchic life in Falstaff, credible within the world of the play, has an additional energy which is also somehow pagan, primitive, even primal. Shakespeare's sources are diverse; first named Sir John Oldcastle, after the real-life rebel of that name, he was rechristened when Oldcastle's surviving family, the powerful Cobhams, objected to the scurrilous portrait Shakespeare presented. Sir John Fastolf, whose name Shakespeare borrowed more or less at random, also existed, but bore no resemblance to the character in the play. But behind these shadowy historical personages lay another figure, one often referred to in the course of the plays: the Vice of the Medieval Morality Plays, with whom Falstaff is specifically identified again and again, corrupting the youthful hero and finally overcoming himself. Dover Wilson's monograph, *The Fortunes*

of Falstaff, makes a clear case for Shakespeare's re-working of this relationship. Something in it does not ring true, however. It neither explains the loving warmth of Hal's feelings, nor does justice to the magnificence, the regal expansiveness of Falstaff's spirit. It was a little-known American

The glorious, abundant anarchic life in Falstaff has an additional energy that is pagan, primitive, even primal

anthropologist, the late Roderick Marshall, who pointed to the existence of another tradition which is more likely to be the underlying matrix of the character and the relationship. He identified Falstaff with a figure common to many cultures, known variously as the Substitute King, or the

Inter-rex. When the Divine King in these cultures becomes ill or incapable, a Substitute King is sought from among the banished descendants of the Divine King of the previously conquered peoples; once captured, "this King for a day, a week or an indefinite period of atmospheric danger, has to perform rites of over-eating, over-drinking and excessive coupling... to reinvigorate the reproductive powers of nature." His job is to initiate the heir of the Divine King into the rituals necessary to make the conquered soil flourish - secrets unknown to the conqueror.

The parallels with Falstaff, Hal and the ailing Henry IV are evident. Marshall identifies various figures in different cultures who correspond to the Inter-rex. Some are familiar and obviously Falstaffian: Silenos, grossly fat, drunken, debauched, was the tutor of Dionysos and was one of the pre-Athenian gods, the children of Kronos, whose task was to stirricken dance, and copulate as noisily as possible after midnight to waken the sun, which might otherwise slumber on indefinitely. Bes, the Egyptian god, tutor to Horus, is the god of life's pleasures, who presides over parties and children; he is described, in perfectly Falstaffian terms, as "the old man who renews himself again a boy." Janus, the Roman god, lord of the Saturnalia, is identified with the god of sowing and husbandry; and presides over "the golden age of eternal summer" - Merrie England by another name. It is at the Saturnalia that the declining powers of the sun are encouraged by sympathetic magic: roles are reversed, the Mock King is appointed, and perhaps at some point killed. "The whole state becomes childlike to encourage the sun to do the same." And thus, at the court of King Falstaff, Hal is able to become the child that his father's court refuses to indulge; and having been truly a child, he can then become truly a man.

These figures (and many more with similarities to Falstaff, always including great girth, bibulousness, hairiness, great age and seeming agelessness, profanity, sedition and endless wit) suggest the profundity of the archetype: but how did they filter through to Shakespeare? Marshall suggests a link. Researching the 17th century Mummer plays, which almost certainly derive from folk plays which Shakespeare may well have known, Marshall was struck by the familiar pattern of the characters: the leading character simply called the Presenter but also known as the Recruiting Sergeant, Fool, Clown and Father Christmas; his wife Mother Christmas, also known as Dolly; the subsidiary characters Little Devil Don't and Old Tossip, the red-nosed drunk, his followers; and Saint George, also known as King George or any other English King, including Henry. Father Christmas is fat, red-faced, wears bullock's horns and has a bladder. He is "in many ways a bearded child who... though just turned into his 99 years of age... can hop skip and jump like a blackbird in a cage." Father Christmas helps the King to fight two battles, but, like Falstaff, he is dismissed and dies.

Falstaff is part of the culture of fertility which underlies our civilisation. We may control fertility, chemically and socially, but the grand patterns of human nature will not be so easily manipulated. Hal's initiation and growth to manhood may not be achieved as a result of a negotiation with nature, a negotiation which we have largely abandoned. It is salutary to think that as recently as 400 years ago, the greatest genius of the language placed a primitive figure right at the centre of his great saga of English life.

'Chimes of Midnight' runs at the Chichester Festival until 5 September (01723 784437)

When Shepard lost his way in the Penthouse suite

EDINBURGH 98
1,309 shows competing for attention on the Fringe this year; it would be more peculiar to find one that wasn't being pimped with the promise of salacious language. While you cannot accuse Pontoon Productions of getting their audiences in under

false pretences, this little-known work by Sam Shepard - the Pulitzer Prize-winning American playwright, actor and cool cat - currently being given its belated European premiere, is not above the charge of gratuitousness.

At the beginning of the piece - hailed as a shocking and titillating sensation by the *New York Times* when it was first staged in 1970 - we find crude-talking Miss Cherry (Elizabeth Perry) lounging in her pink boudoir in her negligée,

THEATRE SHAVED SPLITS ASSEMBLY ROOMS

engrossed in an erotic novel which she has plucked from the piles that lap at the foot of her bed. We hear a detailed description of an act of fellatio that climaxes unexpectedly in a jet of urine.

This distasteful scenario serves to underline, rather than counteract, Miss Cherry's own sexual frustra-

tion. With her wealthy husband absent, she can get her thrills only by taunting her effeminate servant Wong, her mute masseur, and Chunky Puke, a salesman with a suitcase full of titles like *Moist Dungeon*.

Civil war seems to have broken out in the unnamed American city outside the house, and before long a bleeding, bearded, rifle-wielding maniac called Geez storms this castle of bourgeois ennui and holds its princess hostage. Sex, it turns out, is the last thing on his mind.

The director Matthew Gray and his cast successfully bring out the humour in Shepard's dream-like meeting between the haves and the have-nots, and the fantasies that sustain them.

Geez is a typical Shepard male, albeit with hints of the demented Vietnam veteran about him: a dysfunctional soul, in limbo between the wild west of Hollywood and dreams of sexy rock'n'roll suicide.

However, having set up the situation, the dialogue fails to deliv-

er any real tension, even when Miss Cherry's capitalist pig of a husband shows up ("You're being screwed up the arse by your own life," he is told).

The most captivating section of the play proves to be the slow, silent Balinese dance performed by Mavin Khoo playing the liberated Wong. This is the closest that any of the play's characters gets to the throes of ecstasy.

Shepard went to London in search of inspiration the year after *Shaved Splits* was staged, and you

can see him running out of gas here. That it has taken this long to reach us is no great wonder.

A play for Sam Shepard enthusiasts, then - or for readers of *Penthouse*.

'Shaved Splits' runs at the Assembly Rooms until 5 September (0131-226 2428). This review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

How to lose and laugh about it

BANG GO Johnny Vegas's chances of winning the Perrier. Again. Last year, it was the fault of the judges, who swam against the tsunami of popular opinion and threw the award away on the League of Gentlemen. This year, Vegas has only himself to blame. Already tired of being seen as a one-trick pony, in "Selling Out", he attempts to transfer his audience's affection from live poetry to jokey - and, with any luck, remind them who is the real star of the show. "We've got to ditch the wheel," he confides, his husky Merseyside warble cracking with emotion, as though our lives depended on it. His motives are partly honourable, a two-fingered salute to the corporate demand for gimmickry ("When I make a teapot, I'll make it for a friend, not Mister Bloody Mur-

COMEDY JOHNNY VEGAS GILDED BALLOON

doch"), combined with a worry that perhaps pot-throwing was too elitist. But Vegas also has a squinty eye on the defunctable middle-class audience that success has brought him ("You're all homeowners, this is something you can do at home," he sneers). Either way, the result is disastrous: "We've got a half-arsed table and a shitty potter's wheel," is his final verdict, before he throws dignity to the wind and begs for the Perrier outright.

No one loses with more style than Johnny Vegas. Rage about the treatment he received last year is



Johnny 'The Joiner' Vegas

just a handle for the overflowing cup of bitterness that is his life. There are fewer belly laughs this time round, and hardly any of those tightly crafted showbiz metaphors. A savage anger breaks through. It's as though our coming back for more has insulted Vegas with the suggestion that all those stories

about a miserable upbringing deemed by pottery were fabricated. "I'm still an entertainer, not a comedian. I still don't do jokes and I still don't do gags," he explains, wearing the same leather donkey jacket, wing-collar shirt and flares his bulk inhabited last time round.

The sheer lack of new material in "Selling Out", and the hilarious, desperate padding it prompts is another inspired move on the part of Michael Pennington, Vegas's creator. The more at a loss Vegas appears, the more he looks like becoming a comedy colossus.

DC

'Selling Out' continues until 31 August (except Tuesdays) Bookings: 0131 226 2151

The engine of lurve stalls

DONNA JACKSON is a woman of many parts. She was the lead singer of the Seventies girl glam band, The Sharons, and the founder-member of Melbourne's Women's Circus. She knows a fair bit about explosives, too, with a "shot-firing" certificate and a course in quarry-detonating under her belt. And you could say this trucker's daughter had car maintenance in her blood. So great is her love of old bangers that she even once went so far as to marry one. Unfortunately, Jackson doesn't seem to know very much about making lively pieces of theatre.

Superficially, there is something to watch in this autobiographical monologue, as the shock-headed Aussie kangaroo-hops around in her orange overalls between the

shell of a Chevy and the boot of an Opel, wielding her welder, shinning up ropes, tiptoeing around with a stick of gelignite before finally detonating a mouse-trap.

It's in her attempt to chart the course of a doomed love affair between her rough-and-tumble self and a woman of greater refinement that she begins to swerve uncontrollably between sentimentality and self-indulgence. The likening of carburetors to the engine of lurve feels forced ("I'm the positive, she's the negative, as we meet the circuit's complete"),

while her rage at the stalled relationship seems too self-righteous to draw us in - the significant other never gets more than a thumbnail sketch. Her pitiful delivery doesn't exactly help. Her tips on car maintenance are either too complex or too simple to bother with ("Never lend your tools to anyone" - thanks).

"Car Maintenance" was apparently inspired by an article about Marion Sparg, a white South African who blew up police stations to protest against apartheid in the 1980s. The only direct action this inspires you to take is to get up and leave.

Runs until 31 August (0131 556 6350)

DC

Figurative sculpture is a broad school in which one person's cute otter figurine is another's pickled sheep. By Tom Lubbock

Figures that don't add up

THERE'S A man who sculpts otters. I'm not sure why, but my home address is on his mailing list and every so often a postcard arrives, showing a photo of *Sleeping Otter* or *Playful Otter* or *Diving Otter*, fashioned in highly polished bronze or soapstone. I admit, over the years, I've got kind of fond of these sleek and streamlined little figures, impossibly cute though they clearly are. But as for reviewing the work of Laurence Broderick (for that's the sculptor's name) - it would be quite unthinkable.

Why? Well, if it isn't evident, it may be hard to explain. It's not exactly a critical judgement - it's more basic than that. It would come down to saying: this otter sculpture is just not proper art; it's beneath consideration; it's tacky; it's kitsch; or something like that. But how precisely one would define or justify those so handy words of dismissal I'm not sure. Still, note that we have the mirror image of a perhaps more familiar argument. People who like otter sculpture probably think that a pickled sheep isn't proper art.

I don't want to have an argument, though. I only want to point out something, which is obvious, but rather baffling, namely that taking a neutral, anthropological overview, there is an enormous diversity of self-declared art practices in today's world. The standard distinction between traditional and avant-garde doesn't begin to cover the ground. That's not to consider the up-market goods, and there are *vistas* here, numerous sets and sub-sets and overlaps, all the stuff that fills small galleries and local town-hall group shows, the mural painters, the people who do street sculptures.... There is no point saying it isn't art, but it would be a massive and fascinating anthropological job to get it all properly classified.

What saves confusion here is that, exhibition-wise, a fairly strict apartheid is observed. Radically different genres don't normally get shown together. But there are exceptions to this rule - strange, general jostles. There's the Royal

Academy Summer Exhibition, of course, which has recently taken to including up-front contemporary art. There's the bizarre Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art. There's the annual London Art Fair in Islington. Critics (me too) tend to find these get-togethers annoying or ridiculous, but I'm not sure our reasons are so strong. Aren't we just making a fuss about untidiness?

One such hotch-potch can be seen currently at the Flowers East gallery. Its title is *British Figurative Art - Part Two: Sculpture*. It's an extraordinary spectacle. Now, a year ago, as you may have guessed, the gallery hosted a corresponding survey called *British Figurative Art - Part One: Painting*. But that was a rather different affair, because figurative painting is a more or less familiar category; at least you know who the main suspects will be, and they'll be artists at the traditional end of things. But figurative sculpture? You don't immediately know what to expect, or even who the obvious front-runners might be. Who is the sculptural equivalent of Lucien Freud? No name comes to mind. Curious.

And then, equally curious, if you think about the non-traditional end of things, are the current scene-stealers of British art where quite a few names occur under the heading figurative sculpture: Antony Gormley, obviously; and another castor of his own body, Marc Quinn; and that up-and-coming model-maker, Ron Mueck; and naturally, the Chapman Brothers. And then if you were to include sculptors who made work more generally "about the body" - and I don't see how they could really be left out - you could bring in some women artists, such as Mona Hatoum and Cathy de Monchaux. And remember that Rachel Whiteread once cast the inside of a hot water bottle and called it *Thro* (one of her most beautiful works). And if "figurative" covers the animal kingdom, should Damien Hirst even be excluded?

That is an imaginary exhibition. I think it would be worth seeing. But



'Bull Woman', by Nicola Hicks, from the Flowers East exhibition of 'British Figurative Art - Part Two: Sculpture'

Andrew Buurman

it's nothing like what can be seen at Flowers East, and only one of the above mentioned (in a way, though, the most surprising) is represented. What the category "figurative sculpture" produces here is a flagrant miscellany. There's no incitement to

Who, in the world of figurative sculpture, is the equivalent of Lucien Freud? No name comes to mind.

consider the state of this art generally. There's nothing approaching unity. You have 40-odd artists represented by 40-odd works of every sort, and though all the artists are

living, of almost every period: from the conventional portrait to spiky "geometry of fear" anatomies; from the fun novelty piece to the maquette for a public monument. There are works which could fairly be called paintings. There are works which, if the distinction means anything, have to be called abstract. There are representations of animals, though none of the otter.

I can't honestly say that I liked more than three or four things in the show, and one of them was not the work by Anthony Caro, though it was certainly a surprise too. It is a portrait, *Bust of Clement Greenberg*, dated 1988, and done in a clay, Epstein manner. The surprise is solely in what it is, who by and who of Caro, since the early 60's the leading figure of British abstract sculpture: Greenberg, the leading American critic-advocate of post-war abstraction generally. In other ways, it's not at all interesting, the

kind of thing that lurks justly ignored in many institutions, and though you might suppose it was a kind of *jeu d'esprit*, that's not how it feels.

Otherwise, to say that many of the pieces were desperately foolish or sad, terrible tweekiness and terrible jokes, and to wonder what could possibly have inspired the selection, would be to miss the interesting point, which is that, when the normal distinctions come down, you really don't know where you are. For instance, the only bit of bona fide Young British Art included is a severed head with a penis-nose by Jake and Dinos Chapman. Now when you see this in its usual context, in a show of the Chapmans' work, or of their peers, it carries at least a certain attitude: it's cool and real mean.

But see it here, alongside a work like Eleanor Crook's wax effigy of a man with his skin suddenly falling

off and his guts - lovingly crafted - spilling out in front of him, which is yucky but actually a pretty genial bad taste gag, then the Chapmans' piece too becomes less sure of its tone. It looks more like genial gross-out too. Or the effect can go the other

Breaking down art barriers with no discrimination: is like viewing your culture from Mars

way: couldn't the apparently trifling, with a different setting, and with the appropriate commentary, become serious? And looking at Laura Ford's *Bang Bang*, I don't

know which way it goes. It's a life-size plaster model of a little girl in a party dress holding a cocked luger, and placed hiding behind a corner, as if stock-still but ready to spring out and shoot. Is it rather fun? Does it raise troubling questions about childhood innocence? Without seeing it in a more singled-minded exhibition, you can't tell.

This is a game you can play with perhaps half the show's exhibits. Imagine them as nice. Imagine them as disturbing. And, of course, it is a dangerous game. Breaking down art barriers has long been an avant-garde nostrum, but to see it done with practically no discrimination at all is truly disturbing. It is to see your own culture with something like the view from Mars. I giggled quite a lot going through this show, and I think it was mostly laughter of the nervous kind.

Until 20 September (0181 985 3333)

The reality of working with children and animals

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO BUYING AFFORDABLE CONTEMPORARY ART

PORTRAITS of these five Shar-Pei puppies, going from their kennels to Nicky Hoberman's studio near King's Cross, will soon be appearing in her paintings, alongside her sugar-sweet but disturbing little girls.

The discovery of Hoberman, a 30-year-old South African, by Charles Saatchi, was the art world's equivalent of a touch with the fairy godmother's wand - he telephoned her when she was ill in bed and she thought it was a joke.

Her paintings of children and pets are to appear next year in his exhibition of post-Sensation artists *The New Neurotic Realism*, and her solo show opens at Cork Street's Entwistle Gallery next month.

Critics, gobsmacked by Hoberman's pouting, snickering little horrors (the kids, not the pets), have blurted "paedophilia" and "kitsch". Both are there, but Hoberman's confessions contain more than that.

Her doggies, bunnies and pussycats are painted in the kitschy way that adults see both pets and children. But the little girls are painted as little girls see themselves. Aged five to seven, and the daughters of artist friends, they are invited to dress up and be snapped by Hoberman's Polaroid camera, before she puts them on canvas.

The result is that they show off appealingly. Some put on make-up and nail varnish. They strike poses and

pull faces to manipulate the photographer's attention. You probably recognise that wink with mouth agape from pin-up photographs. But did you realise that little girls pull that face long before puberty?

The faces are distorted, as if through a prism, and are viewed from above. These are young egos struggling to grow up, to break out of the adult-made jelly-mould. "I love the distortions," says Hoberman. "I want them to emanate disquiet. The little girls are half adult. Their eyes are quite old and there is something anxious about them. When they're coy, they're more overtly coy than we're used to seeing. There is a knowingness in their



Hoberman capturing the Shar-Pei puppies

Neville Elder

look. But it's just human nature. Girls are more manipulative than boys."

The dresses look flat, like cardboard dolls' dresses with slot-in tabs, hung on the little girls by

adults to impress other adults. The acidic colours are borrowed from sweets and products such as Ribena and My Little Pony, bought by adults for children.

Hoberman uses recently-invented, super-saturated pigments that resemble Cibachrome colours. The brushwork is suppressed so that the images look like computerised photographic montages from magazines. That way, she says, people relate to them more easily, and the emotion behind the controlled gestures makes more impact.

The more precocious among her little girls already know how to make an impact. She told one who flashed her underwear: "No, I don't want to photograph your knickers." Whereupon the child removed them. "I was terrified her mother might walk in," the artist says.

Hoberman graduated in modern history at Oxford, took a BA at Parsons School of Design, Paris, and an MA at Chelsea College of Art and Design. She was shortlisted for this year's NatWest Art Prize. Her solo

exhibitions, recently in Milan, London and Boston, tend to sell out.

According to current prices for her work, her 3ft square portrait of the three little daughters of the vicar of the Nigerian Spiritualist Church next door, who drop in to her studio with their friends, would sell for £2,500. The vicar thanked her for giving it to him, but told her that what he really wanted was an 8ft tall painting of Christ. Her standard large size, 7ft by 8ft, costs about £10,000. Mrs Jackie Smith of Croydon, breeder of the Chinese Shar-Peis, will also receive a portrait gratis - presumably of the most manipulative bitch.

Hoberman's solo exhibition: Entwistle Gallery, 6 Cork Street, London W1. 17 September - 24 October (0171-724 6340). Saatchi Collection (0171-624 8299)

The day you were porn

PHOTOGRAPHS of the model Stella Tennant wearing T-shirts emblazoned with their nifty logo are the main publicity weapon in the armoury of the would-be art terrorists Toss, a duo of Bristol artists hoping to blag themselves a slice of *Sensation*-style notoriety.

Like a West Country version of Gilbert and George, Patrick Joyce and Chris Chalkey have submerged their identities in favour of a corporate image whose props include identical clothing, a white Rolls-Royce (which broke down when they were taking the Finnish cultural attaché to see a preview of their show), and monogrammed cigars and champagne bottles. There's also Toss HQ, a country mansion that looks like a location for *The Avengers*, although it's only been seen in photographs.

Their debut exhibition, in a derelict building which they have refurbished, remains true to their name throughout, as

'TOSS' OLD BUTCHERS, BRISTOL

it is almost wholly concerned with masturbation and pornography. Most of the works take the form of industrial or chemical units (chest freezers, really), in bland, white-painted metal or plastic, fitted with various openings that the viewer is invited to poke head and arms into. A light then goes on in the cabinet and you see the reflection of your face as part of a tableau where you appear to be doing something unspeakable, or are having something unspeakable done to you.

There's also a vending machine that promises a packet of porn in return for a *ponzed* coin. The box that comes out is, of course, empty; a printed note on the bottom informs you that: "This is not an art object and has no value. Please dispose after use."

The final exhibit is an installation in the form of a Sixties parental bedroom where you are invited to search under the bed and on top of the wardrobe to discover a secret cache of risqué magazines. You enter and leave the exhibition by way of the luxuriously appointed shop, which is selling a wide range of knick-knacks and clothing, including those Stella Tennant T-shirts.

Toss may well, in Shakespeare's words, be an expense of spirit in a waste of shame, but there's something undeniably impressive, as well as creepy, about all the effort involved for what is, basically, one off the wrist. They may be playing with themselves, but they take it very seriously.

'Toss' runs until 14 August at the Old Butchers, 35 Jamaica Street, Stokes Croft, Bristol, from 11am to 5pm daily. The Toss website is at www.toss.demon.co.uk

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MEDIA

James Boyle has overcome the fear R4 audiences traditionally feel towards the station's reformers. By Paul McCann

This man is not fit to be hanged

The word "gallus" is best explained to the English as a Scottish version of the Yiddish word "chutzpah". It derives from "gallows" and once meant "a man fit to be hanged"; now it usually means "impertinent", "cheeky".

You do not often think of 52-year-old James Boyle, the serious, headmasterly controller of Radio 4, as cheeky, but there is that side to him.

Sitting in his office after hearing last week that his controversial changes had brought 100,000 new listeners to his station, Boyle knew he was not a man about to be strung up outside Broadcasting House.

But he reaches for "gallus" to try to explain some of the reactions he has received since he started to make his changes. The press has used words such as "arrogant", "single-minded" and "driven" in their profiles and descriptions of him. None of which he exactly denies.

"I think sometimes you do have to be abrasive and to be very direct. There comes a point where I've just got to say, 'I think this is what we ought to do', so get on with it. That's the point at which I tend to provoke charges of directness."

Now that his directness has forced through the launch of 53 new programmes and a new schedule since April, the next stage is about getting them right. Boyle admits that programme-makers were rushed when making some of the new shows, and that many do not work. He declines to name the failures, but hints that Saturday morning's Broadcasting House news magazine will be radically altered. Some of the many new 9am shows which had small runs to test them out may never be back.

"We commissioned so many shows," he says, "because we are looking for new classics." Which is one way of describing the saccharine *Mother and Son* show currently being hosted by Matthew Parris.

In May, Boyle told listeners of Radio 4's *Feedback* that if his changes resulted in a wholesale loss of listeners for Radio 4 he would resign. In his "gallus" way, he now shows no relief at the fact that numbers are rising, the dips in Radio 4 listening he set out to flatten are disappearing, and his job is safe. "I always thought it was safe. The exhausting care we took constructing the schedule and the exhausting care in going out to tell people what was going to happen gave me the confidence to say 'well, I don't really see this going wrong'."

To English ears this kind of confidence can sound like arrogance. Boyle, like many Scotsmen, has never learned, or bothered with, a faked, middle-class English diffidence – the kind that sees self-deprecation as polite. Instead, he comes from that post-war, working-class generation of Scots who, thanks to an improved education system and their own intelligence, were able to lift themselves from their background. These Scots pepper the media and the political world and they don't feel that they have to apologise to anyone for their success.

Radio 4 used to be quite different: "The only time I ever saw the Cambridge-backed, middle-class BBC in operation was



Don't call him McBirt: despite his charts and focus groups, James Boyle has little in common with Sir John

Peter McDiarmid

when I got this job," says Boyle. "Somebody said I was the first person to get the job who had not been at Oxford. I thought yes, so what? It apparently matters to some people, but it never matters to me."

Boyle comes from a tenement on the south side of Glasgow but refuses to play the chippy Scot: "My dad was an electrician. I went to a comprehensive and I lived up a close. Do you want me to do the full 'We lived in the middle of a lake and had to lick it clean every morning' routine?"

He attended Strathclyde University and then the University of East Anglia,

where he was a Dickens scholar. Dickens "Office of Circumlocution", from *Little Dorrit*, was good preparation for the BBC, he claims.

After university he lectured at Glasgow College on what he describes as "typical new Seventies courses" such as media and foundation subjects for science students. He was a lecturer for five years and wrote for the *Times Higher Education Supplement*. After writing a number of "vituperative" pieces about the way the BBC dealt with education, he got the newly created BBC post of further ed-

ucation officer for BBC Scotland.

This involved liaising between the BBC and the world of higher education and he believes that the communication skills learned when lecturing and being a liaison man have stood him in good stead: "I used that mercilessly when changing Radio 4. If you are going to carry out projects, you had better involve those who are taking part in them, and Radio 4 has been the biggest project I've ever had."

The reputation of Radio 4, the heritage of its programmes and the natural activism of the audience had made the schedule vir-

tually untouchable. Past controllers were lambasted for daring to move *Woman's Hour* or bringing in *Anderson Country*.

When Boyle joined Radio 4 in 1996, fresh from revamping Radio Scotland, he was charged with reversing a slow decline in listeners and getting the half of the audience who only ever listened to the news and *The Archers* to listen more.

Boyle, like the college administrator he could have been, sat down and set out a plan of action. The first stage meant modernising Radio 4's co-ordinating process. Out went the common-room chats between

the producer and the commissioner. In came books of audience research and background information that allowed producers to pitch programme ideas that would fit with the whole of the schedule.

Next came a process of listening to producers and audiences about what they liked and then fitting that to a plan that involved smoothing out the troughs in Radio 4 listening by applying modern scheduling techniques. This means putting on programmes at the day's natural listening junctions – after breakfast and lunch – that will hold people to the station through the following hours. It also means flagging up what is coming next, integrating programme types and keeping a flow of listeners throughout the day.

The third stage was the one that most observers acknowledge Boyle played to a T. He toured the country telling people what to expect. Disability groups, academics, the Voice of the Listener and BBC worthies were all shown Boyle's seemingly endless charts and research. By the time media reporters were searching about for "rent-a-quotes" to get all worked up about Boyle's proposed changes to the station, most – though not all – people had already been brought on side.

Some who met him seemed to think that he would act on their complaints, about ending children's drama or banishing *Yesterday in Parliament*, for example. In fact, that was never the intention of his wide consultation. "You have to keep leading the audience," he says. "I don't want to be led by audiences. I don't think they would thank me for that, so I was telling them what we planned to do."

"I really do listen to listeners and I really do talk to them and I mean it. And I can do that because I've never been afraid of listeners. Maybe that is something to do with what we were talking about earlier – the 'gallus' business."

"It's to do with that tradition in Scotland of going out and standing up for yourself and being used to advocacy. There is a great tradition of advocacy in Scotland. You see it coming out, not just in the law, but in the church and in science. People are not afraid to advocate ideas. If you are used to advocacy you are used to the business of engagement with folk, and I think that's something I brought to these changes."

As well as describing himself as gallus, Boyle now happily admits to being a BBC apparatchik – although he once bristled at being described as "McBirt" because of his management charts and his reforming zeal. Now he is more sanguine: "Maybe I do open myself up to a two-dimensional description, but I can't pretend to be other than I am. Those are perhaps only mildly derogatory terms."

But he insists that a love of change is the only thing he shares with Sir John Birt. Despite pulling off a major coup with the reform of Radio 4 he is not looking for anything new to reform: "My next ambition is to spend more time with my bartender. I'm not being coy; I've no further ambitions. It's honestly not posturing. I'm just not interested. I do things because I like them, and I'm boned."

If there is one thing that even his critics and supporters can agree on, the new Radio 4 is not the product of idleness.

ANALYSIS

JANE ROBINS

Who's watching the watchmen?

DID DIXONS really sell second-hand goods as new? Do Ford Mondeo sometimes lean to the left? Did Airtours arrange holidays in hotels surrounded by barbed wire and located in bandit country?

The BBC's consumer programme *Watchdog* said the answers were yes – starting an attack by Dixons, Ford and Airtours on Anne Robinson and her *Watchdog* colleagues, which is likely to end as a broadside against the core of the BBC, particularly its self-regulation and its board of governors.

Self-regulation is a subject that makes BBC bosses uncomfortable. They know it is open to criticism, and that criticism may eventually motivate government to remove the governors, and replace them with an external regulator – all highly unpalatable for an organisation that has grown used to drawing up its own rules on how programme-makers should behave, and being the judge and jury on whether those rules are properly implemented.

The *Watchdog* conflict highlighted the issue perfectly. The three aggrieved companies were constantly rebuffed in their efforts to meet the BBC governors – the rationale being that the BBC's own Internal Programme Complaints Unit (PCU) is there specifically to deal with grievances against programmes.



'Watchdog': under attack

And yet a contradictory element lies at the heart of the PCU. At its head is a most competent and meticulous man, Fraser Steel. He is expected to act in an independent manner, and to adjudicate on complaints against BBC programmes without being influenced by the programme-makers' interests.

By all accounts, he does this job splendidly, and finds for the complainant in about 12 per cent of the hundreds of cases that go to the PCU each year. The problem lies in Mr

Steel's second responsibility. When companies take their complaints to the external Broadcasting Standards Commission, they may employ expensive barristers. The BBC puts forward Mr Steel to argue the corporation's side – he is independent, but he must represent the BBC to the outside world.

Mr Steel's uneasy role is mirrored higher up in the organisation in the responsibilities of the governors themselves. This small band of the great and the good is often dismissed as a bunch of "nominated amateurs" and yet, in theory at least, they have the strongest regulatory powers in the business. If they are unhappy with a BBC programme, they can prevent it being broadcast. The Broadcasting Standards Commission does not have such power, and neither does the Independent Television Commission, which regulates commercial channels.

But the governors, like Mr Steel, have a dual role. They hold the BBC to account. But they are also custodians of the BBC. The two elements are not necessarily incompatible, but they certainly produce a muddled remit which confuses outsiders.

Unsurprisingly, the system comes under periodic attack – and when New Labour came to power, it seemed that it might shake things up. The party's manifesto promised

a single regulatory body for the whole of the broadcasting industry. But it was soon clear that New Labour would not rush into any radical changes. The BBC chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, made a speech last year which hinted that a deal had been done to keep regulation of the BBC "firmly and squarely" with the governors. Chris Smith, meanwhile, has said he has no appetite for a all-powerful, monolithic regulator of everything from competition to content in the broadcasting business.

And, as the BBC is keen to point out, there is a convincing argument against a single content regulator. Who would such a powerful body report to? If it were the Government, and any statutory body does naturally report to government, then Britain would have the possibility of the content of programmes being subject to political influence.

But arguments against a single content regulator do not amount to a case for maintaining the status quo at the BBC. A lawyer sympathetic to Dixons, Ford and Airtours says their next step should be to lobby Chris Smith. He might add that if they really want to send some shock waves through the corporate centre, they might try convincing the Culture Secretary that BBC programmes should be regulated by a truly independent external body.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

THE GOVERNMENT'S obsession with controlling the media knows no limits. When a ship went to survey the wreck of the Hull trawler *Gaul* on Saturday it carried a camera crew from the local BBC news programme. Explicitly banned from the ship was a camera crew from Channel 4, led by Norman Fenton, the investigative reporter who found the wreck in the first place. Mr Fenton has made two documentaries, for Anglia and Channel 4, raising the possibility that the *Gaul* was engaged in Cold War spying for British Intelligence when it sank. Surprise, surprise – Anglia's request for a crew on the survey ship was also turned down. Nor did the *Hull Daily Mail* get to go on the survey ship *Mansel 16*. The *Hull* paper has not only been following the story of the *Gaul*, but has published allegations about John Prescott's son buying and selling council houses. The Deputy Prime Minister and local MP's massive ministry is running the survey expedition. Some think the *Hull Daily Mail*'s exclusion might have something to do with its past stories. Certainly the paper thinks so, and has run a series of stories with the headlines "Banned" and "Censored".

THE BROADCASTING Standards Commission just gets weirder. Last week, amid the furore about *Watchdog*, one



'Sun' editor, David Yelland: a Bridlington boy

aspect of the complaints against it was overlooked. The BSC ruled that Dixons, as in the store, had its privacy infringed – an inanimate building had its privacy invaded by people filming in it. Given that people have had their privacy invaded by high-street and store security cameras, it must surely be the triumph of capital over labour for shops to have stronger rights to privacy than people.

The BBC is taking the ruling to judicial review. If its legal challenge fails, it can be only a matter of time before the Press Complaints Commission acts against all those "I slept with Debenhams" kiss'n'tell stories that have also been invading the privacy of shops.

YOU WOULD think David Yelland, *The Sun*'s editor, would have more loyalty. Last week's report from the Home Office that heroin was moving into small towns provoked a *Sun* investigation into how the tide was sweeping the east Yorkshire resort town of Bridlington. Brid, which has no bigger problem with heroin than anywhere else of the same size, has now had six pieces in the national press this year about how drugs and prostitution have invaded the town. It's all caused by a story about two brothers whose deaths were caused by heroin earlier this year. But, as a Bridlington boy, you hoped Mr Yelland would have looked elsewhere for a den of sin.

A STRONG emphasis on sex programmes is paying off for Channel 5. It achieved record audiences recently when it broadcast Britain's first documentary on *Viagra*, and received a 12 per cent share against the World Cup with its racy documentary *Sex Life*. Insiders reckon there is still a lot of potential for the genre. FTV is planning *Vice: The Sex Trade* for the autumn, and Sky is eating up anything September Films makes about British sex. The "sexumentary" looks likely to take over from the docusoap and pet-TV as the big bad in factual programming.

JP 11/08/98



Harriet Quick, editor of 'Frank'. She is looking to give the magazine a more user-friendly image

Julian Broad

Fall of the house of Wagadon

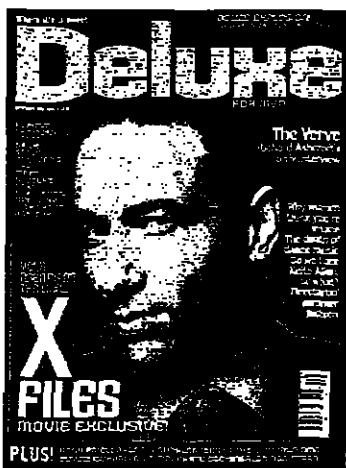
The publishers of both *The Face* and *Arena* seem to have lost their touch. By Richard Cook

NO ONE likes a smart ass. And they don't come much more smart ass than Wagadon, the publishing house that invented the style magazine in this country with the publication of that quintessential Eighties' accessory, *The Face* magazine.

This small independent title was the brainchild of Wagadon's founder, Nick Logan, who went on to achieve another, more modest hit with the publication of *Arena*. This prototype's magazine - in those pre-FHM and pre-Loaded days and since - has perhaps over the years proved to be just a little bit too stylish for the bulk of Britain's heterosexual men. Its sales have never passed 100,000, for instance, in a market where *Loaded* and *FHM* together now sell more than 10 times that number. For all that, it has been a considerable success, and has proved a popular showcase for men's fashion advertisers.

And that was pretty much that. None of the big publishers liked the fact that *The Face* was seen to shape youth opinion rather than follow it, or that *Arena* made their titles in that sector look tawdry and a little cheap, because all of them were prepared to admit - in their quieter, more generous moments at least - that these were the sort of cutting-edge titles that only an independent firm of passionate enthusiasts could really produce.

But that was then. Over the last 12 months, Wagadon, backed by a deal with Condé Nast that gives it access to big league paper-buying and distribution deals, has started



to get a lot bigger and a lot more aggressive. Two major monthly launches have effectively doubled its publishing output over the last nine months. Suddenly the benevolent condescension shown by its rivals has degenerated into all-out war. The principal target has been *Frank*, Wagadon's first major new magazine since the launch of *Arena*, and, unlike its predecessor, neither a critical nor a commercial hit. The mag first appeared last October as a title for the independent, intelligent woman of 25-35 and beyond.

The first edition sold more than 120,000 copies, suggesting that these independent, intelligent, opinionated women represented a considerable market opportunity. Unfortunately, having tried the new title, these same readers were quick to form the opinion that they didn't really like it. They didn't like it at all. In fact, the title is likely to post a desperately disappointing circulation

figure of something between 40,000-50,000 copies when it reports its six-monthly average on Friday.

"I'm not going to beat about the bush," says *Frank*'s publisher, Lou McLeod. "The figures are not what we thought they might be. We would have liked a circulation of 70,000-80,000. So, yes, we will have to give certain of our advertisers extra pages to make up for this shortfall."

It's fair to say that *Frank* hasn't been Wagadon's finest hour. So far at least. And the title is now in a difficult period. Two months ago, the launch editor Tina Gaudoin resigned, falling on her sword with the politicians' and magazine editors' plea of wanting to spend more time with her family. The deputy editor, Lisa Markwell, and the senior fashion editor Mandy Christie, who took up a job offer at *Vogue*, followed.

And, as the days after Gaudoin's departure became weeks, and then months, with no news about a successor, the rumour mill went into overtime. No one wanted the job, was the word. *Frank*, the industry experts reckoned, was unsalvageable.

In fact, next month's edition will be the first under the internally appointed new editor, the former launch features editor Harriet Quick. She is looking to restructure her editorial team and rework the magazine in a user-friendly image.

"We're not about making drastic changes and relaunches," says Quick. "I want to continue with what we set out to do. But with the September issue, there will be a notable change in the feel of the magazine - the design is more accessible and a lot more 'up'. I think some of



the problems we had in the past stem from the fact that, although the content was great, maybe it looked as if it was trying too hard."

It will help that Wagadon is preparing to dig into its pockets again for a second advertising campaign for the title, aware that rivals such as *Elle* were prepared to spend around £5m promoting its rival, *Red*.

"But I really do think there is a niche for the title," adds Lou McLeod optimistically. "I think women want something else from a magazine than 17 orgasms a night and 73 ways to cook a chicken. But when you try to do something completely different in this country, you get lambasted anyway. People, especially in publishing, just want to drag everybody down, and that's something that depresses me enormously. But I will admit that we have been a little bit too serious and, for me at least, the wit has been lacking in *Frank* so far."

Certainly, Wagadon has been

looking towards the state of certain more populist titles for inspiration for the new-look *Frank*. But how far the title will change, and how fast, are anybody's guess.

"There's room for all sorts of different moods within a magazine," says Quick cautiously, before supplying evidence of the new, wittier approach the title may use: "I particularly liked a piece we did on rice cakes earlier this year, for instance. It examined the phenomenon that is the rice cake, and why they have suddenly become so amazingly popular with women, when the hard facts are that they make our breath smell like a two-day-old blow job."

Unfortunately, the problems at *Frank* are not the full extent of Wagadon's current worries. A second new title, *Deluxe*, has had a relatively slow start, while editorial changes at the group's flagship title, *The Face*, are proving to be slow to gel.

The new editor, Adam Higginbotham, marked his first issue with a hard-hitting and well received report on drugs. Unfortunately, he dumped the traditional *Face* cover star in the process. It wasn't a move calculated to go down well with a company proud of its publishing traditions. More worryingly, the title itself has been having its own ABC problems in recent months, losing almost 10 per cent at the last sales check, six months ago.

This week's sales announcements will all be scrutinised with more than their usual care, but then, for Wagadon, such scrutiny at least suggests it is no longer the sort of quaint little family business its rivals can afford to ignore.

They think it's all over...

...and for the editor of 'Sporting Life' it is now. His sacking is the culmination of weeks of chaos at Mirror Group. By Paul McCann

MAN-MANAGEMENT has never been one of the strengths of David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group, but even he managed to surprise the newspaper world yesterday by sacking the one man not responsible for his *Sporting Life* fiasco.

John Mulholland, launch editor of the title, was sacked after articles appeared casting doubt on whether Mirror Group could proceed with *Sporting Life* after putting it on hold.

Last week the plug seemed to have been pulled on the rebirth of *Sporting Life* - two months before it was due to emerge as a daily general sports newspaper.

Mirror Group claims the paper will be launched in the New Year but it seems the end for the paper started two weeks ago when the sales director and marketing director of the newspaper were informed by Jeremy Reed, the managing director, that a hiring freeze had been imposed on the new title.

Mr Reed claims this hiring freeze was communicated to John Mulholland and Richard Ellis, editor and deputy editor respectively of the paper. They claim not to have been told until a week later, which was long enough for at least 21 more people to be offered positions, on top of the 40 or so already signed up.

Last week, after the freeze became known to Mulholland and Ellis, it was also decided to put back the 19 October launch date. This left in limbo the 60 journalists who had accepted jobs on the paper. Most had resigned from their old jobs; some had contracts, some did not. Either way, none of them had a newspaper to work on for the foreseeable future.

These events took place while Montgomery was on holiday and he arrived back yesterday to a four-page letter from Mulholland explaining why it would be impossible for him to work with Mr Reed in the future. However, Mulholland failed to secure a meeting with Mr Montgomery, Mr Reed did, and while Mulholland was out of the office yesterday lunchtime, Mirror Group issued a statement saying that his employment had been terminated. Staff on the paper had to contact their erstwhile editor to tell him he had been sacked.

At the time of going to press it was not known if his deputy Richard Ellis still had a job.

Mirror Group claimed that Mulholland, former media editor of *The Guardian*, would "further delay and jeopardise" the project. The statement said that "contrary to misleading articles, the company wishes to reassure the journalists on the paper that will proceed under new and professional leadership."



John Mulholland: sacked by David Montgomery

However, scanners, computers and office equipment that were due to arrive in the paper's putative offices yesterday failed to show up. The omens for the paper were not looking good.

Few sports journalists are likely to wish to work on such an unstable project and advertisers' confidence is likely to have been terminally damaged.

Turning *Sporting Life* from a racing paper to a general sports paper had been the brainchild of David Montgomery, but Kelvin MacKenzie, his former deputy, brought in Mulholland shortly before MacKenzie left Mirror Group to oversee a bid for Talk Radio. Those searching for someone to blame for the delay were maintaining that MacKenzie's enthusiasm for the paper might have led to what is now a shambles.

A new chairman, Victor Blank, joined Mirror Group two weeks ago and the belief is that he asked to see the research that showed there was a market for a general sports newspaper. It is now being claimed that none had ever been commissioned, despite sources close to MacKenzie claiming yesterday that "bucket-loads" of research was done.

Some of a Machiavellian bent have wondered whether Mr Mulholland, some of his staff and a project with a different name might now end up within Mr MacKenzie's fledgling media empire - a prospect dismissed by friends of Mr MacKenzie yesterday.

David Montgomery convinced those that count that he was totally behind the idea, even after Mr MacKenzie's departure. He signed off the budget for the paper after seeing a dummy the day after England defeated Tunisia in the World Cup.

If it is true that a £10m budget had been approved, staff had been hired and a launch date set without anyone asking if the market for the paper really existed, then Mirror Group's chief executive may have some explaining to do to his board.

OK, so we don't always get it right

An army of consultants ensure accuracy in TV drama. Just as well. The public is hard to fool. By Meg Carter

FOR THE humble TV drama producer. On his or her shoulders rests the power to wreak good or ill across the land. Apparently. In recent weeks, they've been coming under fire for letting dramatic licence get the better of reality. And this despite their growing reliance on specialist consultants and research.

Once, *Brookside* was the only TV drama with editorial researchers on the payroll. Today, think of a high-profile drama and chances are, there'll be specialist advisers involved. *The Bill*? Two ex-police officers work alongside scriptwriters: a third is dedicated to story development. *Silent Witness* employs a pathologist. *Peak Practice* has a Derbyshire-based fundholding GP and Kavanagh QC a practising criminal barrister.

In spite of this, not everyone thinks the programme-makers get it right. Last month, the *British Medical Journal* claimed TV soaps are frightening mothers by putting sensationalism above realism. At a British Medical Association conference, *Peak Practice* was among drama series criticised for misrepresenting the doctor-patient relationship. Meanwhile, others

stand variously accused of misrepresenting countryside life, family values and the dotage of judges.

Reality has a central role to play in TV fiction. Get the facts of a situation right and an audience's belief in what they are seeing can be sustained. Get it wrong, however, and the illusion can be shattered as the eagle-eyed and pedantic reach for the phone. The fine line between fact and fantasy in TV drama,

The public aren't stupid. A drama must reward them. You can't fool them

however, is a precarious one to walk.

"What ends up on screen should be as realistic as practicable. If you're producing a drama, I can think of no good reason for showing something that's wrong when by showing something that's right you could enhance the story and make

it more believable," says pathologist Dr Ian Hill, pathology adviser on *Silent Witness*.

David Etherington QC, legal adviser on *Kavanagh QC*, is equally pragmatic. "Problems can arise when producers want to create drama. A classic example is the order in which witnesses and defendants are called during trial," he says. "Often I'll say something is permissible because I want to be sympathetic to the drama. It is drama, not documentary, after all."

Etherington says he keeps in mind at all times the image of a retired circuit judge sitting at home with his hand on the phone. "Will he ring?" I ask myself. I try to stop grave errors - lawyers watching would lose all confidence and enjoyment and the series would lose credibility."

The best specialist advisers are those who are both experts in their field and understand storytelling, says Tony Virgo, producer of *Peak Practice*. "You may be a leader in your field but if you don't realise what a drama requires, you'll be of little use," he says. "We need someone not only to say 'No' but to be able to come up with an alternative."

Some advisers already have ed-



'Kavanagh QC' starring John Thaw, and 'Silent Witness' with Amanda Burton both use advisers from the relevant professions

itorial experience. Graham Harvey, *The Archers* agricultural story editor, has a background in farming, journalism and scriptwriting. "I find out about the real working lives of farmers and consider everything from a script point of view," he explains. "We need farming issues to come through strongly."

Others go one step further. Ex-detective inspector Jackie Malton, now a story developer and police adviser for *The Bill*, has worked on numerous series. Not only is she a regular collaborator with Lynda La Plante, she's also now developing her own programme ideas.

"The challenge is to get the required drama into a story," she says.

"There are always certain areas of potential conflict producers like to play up - such as between uniform officers and CID," But you have to know when to treat something properly. The public aren't stupid. A drama must reward an audience - you can't let them down, fool them or present something that's totally contrived."

Dr Tim Parkin, medical adviser on *Peak Practice*, adds that he would never sanction medical inaccuracies. He is less rigid on certain procedures, like how long it takes to get a blood sample, though. "What a lot of people don't realise is you have to put faults in that's real life. Not every doctor diagnoses everything right first time. Nor does



every patient exhibit text-book symptoms."

Peak Practice does get complaints, he admits - "usually for being emotive. When we had a character with meningitis, some families who had suffered it felt we shouldn't have touched it. It can be highly subjective."

Mersey Television's chairman, Phil Redmond, agrees. Accuracy in tracking important issues is critical but putting this into practice can be problematic. "What quickly became apparent on *Brookside* was that because it's drama you're not dealing with objective, corroborated factual data but subjective views and conflicting opinion."

One issue, Redmond says, is growing demands from pressure groups and lobbyists eager to have their cause featured in a dramatic storyline. His response is to listen and always take more than one opinion, but not blindly follow the advice.

"TV drama is not generalisation but what happens to specific characters at a specific moment in a specific situation," he explains. "Given that every complaint must now be responded to in detail, the danger is we go down the CPS route - with producers expected to show a clear research trail and plotline dossiers - when, in fact, much comes down to common sense."

NEW FILMS

THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (U)

Director: Michael Curtiz
Starring: Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Basil Rathbone
A perfect antidote to the bombast of *Armageddon* can be found in Curtiz's merry and inventive romp, one of the greatest swashbucklers ever made. Graceful fighting sequences, Erich Wolfgang Korngold's Oscar-winning soundtrack, jazzy pacing and a general air of *joie de vivre* make it the most satisfying family film on show this summer.
CW: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

ARMAGEDDON (12)

Director: Michael Bay
Starring: Bruce Willis, Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler, Billy Bob Thornton
This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action-adventure and a global disaster movie, with almost every moment carefully engineered to include something for all the family. Dad will enjoy the gruff camaraderie of the deep-core drillers dispatched to sabotage the course of a meteor heading for Earth, while the love of the chief driller, Harry Stamper (Bruce Willis), for his daughter, Grace (Liv Tyler), should please Mum. Candy-coated exchanges between Grace and her fiancé, AJ (Ben Affleck), will keep Big Sister quiet, and Kid Brother is sure to be thrilled whenever a burning car sails through the air.

Director Michael Bay's picture has a problem with the complexities of identity, and not only in terms of its audience profile. In *Armageddon*, the world's countries are acknowledged—an advance on *Deep Impact*, in which the end of the world apparently only posed a threat to a stretch of motorway and some desirable beachfront properties. But is being represented by crude picture-postcard tableaux any better than not being represented at all?

This whole end-of-the-world nonsense turns out to be simply a preamble to Grace and AJ's wedding, though in all the excitement, everyone seems to have forgotten France being wiped out in the final reel. We are supposed to be soothed by the fact that AJ has survived, but as a substitution for 2,000 years of culture and history, I am not sure he really cuts it.

CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD (18)

Director: John Hillcoat
Starring: Tchéky Karyo, Rachel Griffiths
Nick Cave was one of the musical consultants on this heady melodrama, and indeed the whole film feels like one of his own murder ballads stretched out for two hours. Actually, it is the work of John Hillcoat, who made the intense prison drama, *Ghosts... of the Civil Dead*, but here throws together too many over-heated clichés to form a kind of low-rent *Vertigo*, with Tchéky Karyo remaking his lover, Rachel Griffiths, in the image of his former wife.
CW: ABC Piccadilly, Metro

ZERO EFFECT (15)

Director: Jake Kasdan
Starring: Bill Pullman, Ben Stiller, Ryan O'Neal
Kasdan is a 22-year-old following in the footsteps of his writer-director father, Lawrence (*The Big Chill*, *Grand Canyon*), demonstrating some of the same flaws as Dad (congruous use of symbols, over-reliance on irony), but generally pulling off an impressive debut. Pullman is excellent as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator, a drop-out who subsists on tuna fish, Tab and amphetamines, pulling on reserves of wit and ingenuity when the time comes to crack a new case. And when Pullman gets to play scenes with Stiller, who plays Zero's well-groomed go-between, it is like watching a fireworks display—this pair crackles. Ultimately the film feels a little shallow and self-conscious, but it puts a smile on your face for most of its duration.
CW: Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur. Ideal for the more understanding pre-school viewer—but an endurance test for anyone else.
CW: Clapham Picture House, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE CASTLE (12)

When his family home is threatened with demolition, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caine) decides to fight back. File under quirky Australian kitsch. CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

DANCE OF THE WIND (U)

Indian TV star Kirti Gidwani plays Pallavi, a singer of Hindustani classical music, who dries up on stage following the death of her mother. CW: Gate Notting Hill, Renoir

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)

When Etiza (Hope Davies) tells her parents that she thinks her husband is having an affair, the whole family joins her on a trip to Manhattan to confront him. First-time writer-director Greg Mottola charts the tensions of the family car journey with unerring wit and unexpected compassion. CW: Curzon Minima, Odeon Camden Town, Phoenix Cinema, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one, but in the snappy new film version of *Dr Dolittle*, he shows that his talents are more pliable than they might at first have appeared. CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)

The routine level of so much in *The Gingerbread Man* disappoints on every front. Robert Altman is a great director, but with this film he is merely marking time. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

GODZILLA (PG)

The team that cooked up such blockbusters as *StarGate* and *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures. Unfortunately, on this occasion, their light touch has deserted them. CW: Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

LA GRANDE ILLUSION (U)

Jean Renoir's reissued 1937 classic is the tenderest of war movies. CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Screen on the Hill

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical with John Travolta's as the greased-up high-school heart-breaker. CW: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Virgin Trocadero

HANA-BI (18)

Violent yet elegiac portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his traumatic personal life. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Ritzy Cinema

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)

This sprightly adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story—re-released for the summer holidays—began a string of hits for Disney. Pleasantly jazzy holiday fare. CW: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOST IN SPACE (PG)

Yet another cult 1960s television series gets an expensive makeover, but the film-makers have remained faithful to the original tone and the movie looks terrific. William Hurt stars as a frosty scientist who journeys with his family into space to save the Earth from destruction and, of course, learns how to bond with his kids in the process. With Gary Oldman and Matt LeBlanc. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

A warm, subtle comedy, starring John Hurt as a reclusive widower who becomes obsessed with a young film actor, Jason Priestley. CW: Curzon Minima, Virgin Haymarket

MAD CITY (15)

A despairingly simplistic drama starring Dustin Hoffman and John Travolta. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks and sounds even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there is an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained. CW: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MOJO (15)

Mojo is set in a mythologised 1950s Soho inhabited by petty gangsters. It concentrates on sexual tension in a way that American crime movies generally shy away from. CW: ABC Swiss Centre

MONK DAWSON (18)

A sensitive Catholic priest succumbs to temptation, loses his faith and takes to the party circuit. You can just about discern the honourable intentions hiding within *Monk Dawson*, but far better to enjoy the film for the hotchpotch of melodrama and sensationalism that it is. CW: Odeon Haymarket

PAULIE (U)

Once the muse of indie-legend John Cassavetes, Gene Rowlands here has the chance to work with a talking parrot. Voiced by Jay Mohr, Paulie is the wisecracking bird who takes a wry look at human foibles in this likeable kids' movie. CW: Virgin Trocadero

PSYCHO (15)

I envy anyone who will get their first taste of *Psycho* with this new print. Imagine not being fluent in Hitchcock's language of tricks and seeing the Bates Motel for the very first time. CW: Chelsea Cinema

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Now too old and craggy to be leaping from moving trains, action man Harrison Ford here tries to reinvent himself as a romantic lead. CW: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SLIDING DOORS (15)

Romantic comedy sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors (John Hammah and John Lynch). CW: Plaza, Virgin Fulham Road

THE THIEF (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above right. CW: Renoir

THE WEDDING SINGER (PG)

A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a hopelessly romantic wedding singer (*Saturday Night Live* Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she is engaged to someone else. CW: Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey

SO MANY screenwriters and directors have imitated the early style of Barry Levinson that it's easy to forget how fresh his best film, *Diner*, felt when it was released in 1982. Steve Guttenberg, Daniel Stern, Mickey Rourke and Kevin Bacon (left) are the four friends goofing around in 1960s Baltimore. Only Bacon's career has really survived in the intervening years. But this is fine ensemble playing, and Levinson's witty script is a gift to the young, vibrant script. The film's nostalgia doesn't stick in the throat; it washes over you.



NFT, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 3232) 6.15pm

The Thief is then story of a six-year-old boy whose mother falls for a con man posing as a soldier in 1952 Russia. What makes the picture worth seeing is the acting. The young Misha Philipchuk is unusual among child actors—his performance grows and matures palpably as the picture progresses. On selected release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

THE 1970 STUDENT play *Lakeboat* by David Mamet (below) was greeted with open arms when it was premiered at the Lyric, Hammersmith earlier this year. It observes the eight-strong crew of a freighter crossing the Great Lakes. Aaron Muller's unfussy staging allows us to peer beneath the surface of those now typically brusque, edgy exchanges.

Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh (0131-226 2428) 1pm
The extended run of *Sugar Sugar*, Simon Bent's comedy about the flaky inhabitants of a Scarborough boarding house, comes to an end this week. Though uneven in structure, the dialogue is as pleasurable to hear as wet shingle underfoot.
The Bush, London W12 (0181-743 3388) to 15 Aug, 8pm



Comedy James Rampton

THE SHARP stand-up Junior Simpson (right) is not content just to tell fluffy, throwaway gags. "I want my material to have a point—not just to be a joke, joke without substance," he asserts. "If that was the case, I'd just talk all the time about kebabs, drugs and masturbation. But I don't like kebabs, I don't take drugs, and my private life is private." He's proof positive that issues don't have to be desperately unfunny.



The Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh (0131-226 2428) 9.45pm
In one show, the highly original comedian Rich Hall whipped out *Loot* and started singing what he claimed were random lines from it to the accompaniment of an electric organ: "Ford Escort. 376,000 miles. As new. Needs windshield. Thirty metres of Number 4 grit sandpaper. No time-wasters, please... Sing along if you know the words." Not the sort of routine you'd expect from a run-of-the-mill "why are relationships so difficult?" raconteur.
The Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh (0131-226 2428) 8.30pm

Visual Art Richard Ingleby

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH Academy's new show is a sprawling exhibition of more than 200 works by William Gillies, one of Scotland's most respected 20th-century painters. I'm not sure that any artist would be well served by such an unwieldy and unselected survey of their life's work, but the exhibition does include some wonderful and little-known gems and shows Gillies to have been more internationally minded than is usually thought. *Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh* (0131-226 6671) to 11 Oct
The New Contemporaries (below), the annual best feast for art school hopefuls, has been selected this year by a panel including the artist Phyllida Barlow and Guardian critic Adrian Searle. Thirty-four young artists have been plucked from the 900 who submitted their slides and, as ever these days, the emphasis is on photography, film and video. *Camden Arts Centre, Arcauright Road, London NW3* (0171-435 2642) to 20 Sept



CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-935 9772) Baker Street Dr Dolittle 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm
ABC PANTON STREET (0171-930 0631) Piccadilly Circus As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) Piccadilly Circus Lolita 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8pm
ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-655 6279) Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road The Gingerbread Man 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-439 4470) Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Destructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-636 6148) Tottenham Court Road Road Armageddon 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9.05pm
BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-382 7000) Barbican/Garlic The Adventures of Robin Hood 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CHelsea Cinema (0171-351 3742) Sloane Square Psycho 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-488 2242) Clapham Common Armageddon 3pm, 6pm, 8pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) Green Park The Adventures of Robin Hood 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4988) Elephant & Castle Armageddon 1.20pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0171-437 1234) Leicester Square The Castle 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9pm
GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) Notting Hill Gate Dance Of The Wind 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) Hammersmith Armageddon 1pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
METRO (0171-437 0757) Piccadilly Circus/Gingerbread Man 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 8705) Notting Hill Gate Armageddon 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 6pm
ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4229) Camden Town Armageddon 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) High Street Kensington Armageddon 12.10pm, 1.45pm, 3.35pm, 5.10pm, 7pm, 8.35pm
ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-315 4215) Leicester Square Armageddon 11am, 2.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) Marble Arch Armageddon 11.15am, 1.35pm, 2.30pm, 5.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm, 9pm
ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) Leicester Square The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) Swiss Cottage Armageddon 12.20pm, 1.45pm, 3.40pm, 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 8.15pm
ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) Leicester Square Lost In Space 12.00pm, 12.45pm, 2.50pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm

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METRO (0171-437 0757) Piccadilly Circus/Gingerbread Man 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 8705) Notting Hill Gate Armageddon 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 6pm
ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4229) Camden Town Armageddon 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) High Street Kensington Armageddon 12.10pm, 1.45pm, 3.35pm, 5.10pm, 7pm, 8.35pm
ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-315 4215) Leicester Square Armageddon 11am, 2.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) Marble Arch Armageddon 11.15am, 1.35pm, 2.30pm, 5.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm, 9pm
ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) Leicester Square The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) Swiss Cottage Armageddon 12.20pm, 1.45pm, 3.40pm, 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 8.15pm
ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) Leicester Square Lost In Space 12.00pm, 12.45pm, 2.50pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) High Street Kensington Armageddon 12.10pm, 1.45pm, 3.35pm, 5.10pm, 7pm, 8.35pm
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ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

TUESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

THOMAS WHYTHORNE was a musician, composer, something of a ladies' man, and more to the point, one of the first Englishmen to write an autobiography. Thomas Whythorne, Gent (10.15pm R3) is a charming pair of programmes - the second is broadcast tomorrow - mixing Whythorne's music with his writings (read by Robert Hardy, right). The autobiography is a fine piece of Elizabethan posturing, with

Whythorne talking modestly of how he resists all sorts of fleshly temptations, meantime describing his travels around Europe (German drink too much, apparently) and his career at court. The Rank School of Chalmers (9pm R2) looks back at the glamour factory Rank ran in the 1940s and 1950s, which turned out such high-class products as Joan Collins and Diana Dors.



ROBERT HANKS

RADIO 1

(97.5-99.5MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball
9.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow 12.30 Newsbeat 12.45 Jo Whiley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.30 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Byrne Hobbs 12.00 The Breezeblock 2.00 Charlie Jordan 4.00 - 6.30 Cbe Warren

RADIO 2

(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Johnnie Walker 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00 Alex Lester 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Carl Davis Classics 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 The Rank School of Chalmers. See Pick of the Day 10.00 Giant Strides (Stride Piano) 10.30 Richard Allison 12.05 Steve Madden 3.00 - 4.00 Annie O'Brien

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air 9.00 Masterworks 10.30 Proms Artist of the Week 11.00 Sound Stories 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Sir John Goss

1.00 The Proms 3 Lunchtime Concert 2.00 BBC Proms 3 (R) 4.00 Choral Voices 4.45 Music Machine (R) 5.00 In Tune 7.30 BBC Proms 98. Tonight's programme includes a new orchestral piece by Leonard Slatkin, who also conducts the concert, a virtuoso concerto by his fellow American Joseph Schwantner, and a masterpiece by Edgar, Evelyn Glennie (percussion). Choral Music Centre Children's Choir, Philharmonia/Leonard Slatkin. Slatkin: Housewarming (first European performance). Schwantner: Percussion Concerto

8.00 Memories of Edgar. Edgar's godson, William, talks to Brian Kay about the composer. 9.30 Concert, part 2. Edgar: Symphony No 2 in E flat

9.50 Postscript. Valentine Cunningham presents a five-part personal guide to contemporary English fiction 2: 'Bad Girls'. How the daughters of Virginia Woolf and Angela Carter set out to undo patriarchal narrative (R) 10.35 Thomas Whythorne, Gent. This 16th-century composer and poet was

one of the first Englishmen to write an autobiography, revealing many details of the life of a private musician in the time of Elizabeth I. In the first of two programmes, Robert Hardy reads from Whythorne's book, and Red Byrd perform a selection of his part songs. See Pick of the Day. 10.45 Intruder in the Dust. To mark the centenary of the birth of the great American writer William Faulkner, Diane Roberts travels to the heart of Mississippi to investigate the man and his work. When Faulkner became a Nobel laureate in 1949, he was simultaneously a outcast and a hero in the American Deep South. His greatest novels played upon the innermost values of a white society that still believed in its own supremacy. His family disowned him, yet his stance on race was ambivalent, even reactionary. Interviews with Faulkner's nephew, with the writer Fred Aguiar, and with Prof Henry Louis Gates. (R) 11.30 Jazz Notes 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Edgar (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 Today 9.00 On the Ropes 9.30 Diaries of Today 9.45 JRR Tolkien's Randomness 10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour 11.00 NEWS: The New Potato Famine (R) 11.30 Grease Monkeys 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One

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SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

HE MAY not have the screen charisma of some of the actors he has been compared with - James Dean and Marlon Brando, to name but two - yet Matthew McConaughey (right) certainly possesses a brooding sense of presence. Throughout A Time to Kill (10pm Sky Movies Screen 2), he smoulders until smoke virtually comes out of his ears. In this atmospheric picture of the Deep South, he plays idealistic attorney Jake Brigance, who

agrees to defend Carl Lee Hailey (the always impressive Samuel L. Jackson), a man accused of shooting the two racist hoods who attacked his daughter. Rather less glamorous than the World Cup finals, the first round Worthington Cup clash between Turkuway United and Crystal Palace (7.30pm Sky Sports 2) marks Terry Venables' new role as the Selhurst Park boss.



JAMES RAMPTON

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
6.00 Out of Time (1995) (53488508), 2.45
Farewell to the Planet of the Apes (1974)
(473850), 11.55 Race the Sun (1995)
(729204), 11.55 Annie: A Royal Adventure
(1995) (55270614), 1.00 Out of Time (1995)
(22655), 3.00 Pee-wee's Big Adventure
(1985) (48430), 5.00 Annie: A Royal Adventure
(1995) (55270614), 7.00 Race the Sun
(1995) (55270614), 9.00 Sunset Park
(1995) (4081627), 10.45 The Shipwreck
(1997) (808782), 12.45 The Bridges of
Madison County (1995) (5732571), 2.30
Overdrive (1997) (562164), 4.05 - 6.00
Something about Love (1998) (228292)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
6.00 Crack-Up (1994) (8033121), 7.35
Peter No Tail in America (1985) (543814), 8.25
The Scarlet Flower (1991) (569893), 10.05
Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco
(1993) (570328), 11.45 The Angel of
Pennsylvania Avenue (1995) (221033), 1.20
Crack-Up (1994) (8033121), 2.50 Homeward
Bound II: Lost in San Francisco (1993)
(570328), 4.20 Amadeus: Baby! (1995)
(530201), 6.00 The Angel of Pennsylvania
Avenue (1995) (569893), 7.35 Behind the
Scenes (1992), 8.00 Discover Magazine (1998)
(569893), 9.00 Eyewitness (1997)
(569893), 10.45 Candyman (1992)
(190579), 1.25 Hot Pursuit (1987) (574725),
3.00 - 6.00 The Entity (1982) (496574)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
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6.00 Earth Girls Are Easy (1998) (562427),
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